Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 225 | TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Have you ever reported any pricing discrepancies to the Attorney General's consumer counsel?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Merger Deal
Continental Airlines said its stockholders have voted to approve the merger with United Air Lines.

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Taiwan Mayhem
A powerful typhoon rips into Taiwan, flooding the southern part of the island.

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No to DADT
Lady Gaga will be joining a rally against the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays.

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Pending cases, unpaid wage claims trap 450 jobless aliens in CNMI

» Labor cites 'inflation' of job titles to discourage locals

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some 450 jobless aliens are in the CNMI until at least 209 court cases and unpaid wage claims are concluded, the Department of Labor said in its latest report to the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Labor Deputy Secretary Jacinta M. Kaipat provided a Sept. 3 progress report to the Legislature, a copy of which was obtained only yesterday.

The report cited 89 cases involving foreign workers pending in the Superior Court as of end-June, and 120 unpaid wage claims of alien workers pending in the Office of the

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More names needed for CK memorial courtyard

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Saipan Municipal Council has received less than 20 names since the nomination of individuals who will be honored in the Leadership Memorial Courtyard opened last year.

In separate interviews, administrative officer Frances Muña said their office received 11 names while CNMI Museum director Robert Hunter said they

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ESCAPE TO MAÑAGAHA HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
A Japanese tourist enjoys a banana boat ride from Saipan (in the background) to Managaha island on Saturday morning. July arrivals to the CNMI went up by 16 percent to 35,164 compared to the same month last year, as a result of increased arrivals from its main markets of Japan and Korea, along with China.

16-hour cut to reduce govt costs by $23M; 8-hour cut needs $11.5M in add'l revenue

» Conference committee to decide today on work hour cuts

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With 10 days to go before the start of a new fiscal year, a six-member joint legislative panel is expected to decide today whether to cut government work hours by 16 or eight per pay period. Government work hours are 80 per pay period.

Failure to make a decision today—as planned—is another day away from government shutdown, members of the conference committee said after

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10 DAYS left before the start of the new fiscal year

Local

Speaker: Fitial's right, NMI economy will get much worse

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) echoed yesterday Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's statement that the CNMI has not hit rock bottom yet, adding that the economy will get worse in fiscal year 2011 and much worse in 2012 and 2013.

Tenorio reiterated that the government will not be able to meet its $132 million projected revenue available for operations in fiscal year 2011, citing the lack of new investments, among other things.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos had said the $132 million projected revenue for government operations may be further reduced, and Tenorio said this is a real possibility.

"2011 will be bad, 2012 will worse than 2012, and in 2013, it will get much worse," Tenorio said yesterday.

Tenorio, a former governor, said if and when live-fire training ranges on Tinian will be built, the economic benefits won't be felt "until 2014."

Despite the recent defeat of his Saipan casino bill by the Senate, he still believes that a casino industry will help revive the economy.

"The casino industry is a plan for the future. Even if the Senate approved it, we won't feel its impact until after two years or so. The Rota casino industry was approved by Rota voters in 2007, and it's only now, in 2010, that they've opened a small casino operation," Tenorio said in a phone interview.

The speaker said he will introduce a popular initiative for the establishment of a casino industry on Saipan in time for the next election. He said next time around, his initiative will ensure that much of the revenue will go to Saipan.

Government budget has shrunk steadily over the years. Before Fitial's first term in office in 2005, government budget was at $216 million, before reaching only $137 million in fiscal year 2010 and is projected to reach only $132 million in 2011.

The governor said uncertainties related to a lack of federal regulations on foreign investors, foreign students and foreign workers almost a year after the federal government took over CNMI immigration on Nov. 28, 2009, are a major contributing factor to local economic problems. He, however, sees bright prospects for a military economy and light industries.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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WIC

Please be advised that the Income Eligibility Guidelines has been extended to June 30, 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENT

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines 2009-2010

On March 6, 2009, a Notice announcing the revised WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines was published in the Federal Register. The adjusted income eligibility guidelines are used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the WIC Program. WIC State agencies must implement the new guidelines effective July 1, 2009.

To be eligible on the basis of income, applicants' gross income (i.e. before taxes are withheld) must fall at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines (see below).

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines
(Effective from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)

48 Contiguous States, D.C., Guam and Territories					
	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	20,036	1,670	835	771	386
2	26,955	2,247	1,124	1,037	519
3	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652
4	40,793	3,400	1,700	1,569	785
5	47,712	3,976	1,988	1,836	918
6	54,631	4,553	2,277	2,102	1,051
7	61,550	5,130	2,565	2,368	1,184
8	68,469	5,706	2,853	2,634	1,317
Each Add'l	+6,919	+577	+289	+267	+134
Member Add					

A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-formerly the Food Stamp Program), or Medicaid automatically meet the income eligibility requirement. For more information please call the WIC Clinic at 664-4084.

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A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

JATA World Travel Fair
Japan's Largest Travel Show

The **Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)** makes it annual appearance this week at Japan's largest travel show, the **2010 Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA) World Travel Fair**.

The event, expected to be attended by over a hundred thousand travel trade reps, media reps, and potential visitors, will be held Friday through Sunday (Sept. 24-26) at the Tokyo Big Sight East Hall. JATA is a national organization of travel agents and suppliers promoting the travel and tourism industry.

JATA World Travel Fair is the Northern Marianas' biggest and best opportunity in Japan to meet with travel reps who can help sell the destination, media reps who can help publicize the islands, and potential travelers deciding on their next destination. If past years are any indication, the MVA is expecting to reach thousands of participants directly at our promotional booth.

The MVA will also conduct its Marianas Workshop on Friday afternoon (Sept. 24) to update travel agents about the Northern Marianas destination. **The Marianas Workshop** is expected to attract over 100 travel agents and media and will be held at Tokyo Bay Ariake Washington Hotel.

Joining the MVA at JATA World Travel Fair will be _____ (companies).

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Intoxicated man allegedly fires gun in Micro Beach

A drunk man allegedly fired a rifle into the air several times and then pointed it at a crowd in Micro Beach, Garapan before dawn Saturday.

Andave Camacho, 26, was arrested later that same day on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, disturbing the peace, illegal possession of a firearm, criminal mischief, and carrying a firearm while under the influence of alcohol.

Camacho was set to appear yesterday afternoon for his initial appearance. Bail was set at $40,000 cash.

Detective Sean White stated in his report that the Department of Public Safety's emergency hotline 911 received a call Saturday at 3:16am about a possible shooting incident at the Micro Beach pavilion.

When patrol officers arrived at the scene, the caller informed them that Camacho fired a rifle in the air about four times.

Camacho then pointed the weapon at a crowd in the area and asked if anyone wanted to fight, White said.

The caller said the suspect fled on a silver Toyota Hi-lux pickup truck with license plate ACB-536.

White said witnesses corroborated the caller's statements.

Patrol officers later spotted the vehicle along Middle Road and stopped it near H-Mart in Chalan Lau Lau at 4:13am.

Camacho was then arrested, but police failed to recover the gun during a consent search of the vehicle.

At 10:59am that day, White said he interviewed Camacho at the DPS interview room and the suspect claimed he only popped a firecracker, waving his hand around as if he was holding a pistol.

The detective said he detected a strong odor of alcohol from Camacho's breath.

Camacho allegedly admitted he was drinking prior to his arrest.

White said at 1:30pm he and detective Peter Camacho combed over the crime scene and found four .223 caliber shell casings. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Minor flooding seen due to tropical disturbance

Rains blanketed the island yesterday and this is expected to continue this morning on Saipan, resulting in minor floods due to a developing tropical disturbance east of the northern Marianas.

According to the National Weather Service in Guam, the developing tropical disturbance remains the subject of a newly extended tropical cyclone formation alert from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center.

As of 4pm yesterday, the tropical disturbance's center was less than 50 miles east of Agrihan and Pagan, 220 miles north of Saipan, and 350 miles north-northeast of Guam.

The weather agency said scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are expected across the Mariana islands as the disturbance moves northwest tonight (Monday) and Tuesday.

NWS said up to three inches of rainfall may possibly occur this morning, Tuesday, for islands north of Saipan.

"This could result in minor flooding of roads and poor-drainage areas. Rainfall accumulations of an inch or less are now expected for Saipan and southward," the NWS said.

Since the disturbance is still in its beginning stage, the NWS does not expect strong winds.

The agency, however, cautioned residents of Pagan and Agrihan to monitor the disturbance's progress through this morning. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DPS Rota sets seatbelt, child restraint checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting seatbelt and child restraint checkpoints on Rota on Sept. 27 and 30, 2010.

On Sept. 27, Monday, the checkpoint will be held along Sinapalo I by San Isidro Church, from 6:30am to 7:45am.

On Sept. 30, Thursday, the checkpoint will be held along SF Highway by Pinatang Park, from 6:30am to 7:45am.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes) at each location.

This activity is part of the Department of Public Safety's efforts to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain.

In addition, police officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities. ***(DPS)***

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IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on September 21, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before September 21.
THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.
* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than September 21. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.
If you have questions regarding billing or service please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or visit our Customer Service Representatives at our Chalan Lau-Lau Office.
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Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health
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WIC
ANNOUNCEMENT
Please be advised that the CNMI WIC Clinic will be CLOSED on Friday, September 24, 2010, from 7:30a.m. - 12:30p.m., for Staff Professional Development Training.
No appointments have been scheduled for this morning and we will be happy to assist you in the afternoon from 12:30p.m. - 4:30p.m.
Thank you for your patience and understanding.
Quick WIC Tip: September is Whole Grains Month, and when it comes to getting your whole grains remember the number 3: 3 one-ounce servings a day.
A serving is equivalent to:
One slice of 100% whole-wheat bread, or
½ cup of brown rice, or
½ cup of oatmeal, or
1 cup of whole grain flakes or rounds ready-to-eat breakfast cereal
Whole grains provide fiber, antioxidants, vitamins, minerals and nutrients and the WIC Program provides all these items—wheat bread, brown rice and oatmeal.
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SCS students take part in 'Talk Like a Pirate Day'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

American Memorial Park celebrated the International Talk Like a Pirate Day last Sunday with the students from the Saipan Community School.

Observed every Sept. 19, International Talk Like a Pirate Day is a fun day that involves people talking like pirates and dressing up in pirate costumes.

This holiday was created in 1995 by John Baur and Mark Summers and is observed in countries such as the United States, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

Forty-one students of SCS in second and third grade participated in a number of pirate activities that highlight teamwork and encourage camaraderie, said Ranger Susan Fishman-Tudor.

Tudor told *Saipan Tribune* that the students had groupings where each group decided on a ship name and chose their respective ship captains.

Tudor said each student group also created their own ship flag and developed their own rules for their ship.

"Although considered outlaws, pirates live in a community that's based on a certain code of conduct. They have their own rules in safety, organization, and consequences which are actually very strict," she explained.

Tudor said the students were able to realize all these through the pirate-themed activities.

Among these were the hand-eye coordination tasks, feeding the "sharks," learning pirate vocabulary, and following directions.

Tudor said the students learned about nutrition by finding out what food is suitable on a long voyage. They also discovered the nutritional deficiencies of pirates such as scurvy and beriberi.

"The students also realized about the thought that being a pirate can be very dangerous, just like famous pirates such as Peg Leg Pete and Capt. Hook who have disabilities," she said.

Tudor said the students took part in activities where they experienced having to work with disabilities, such as using an eyepatch or using only one hand while making cannonballs.

According to Tudor, the American Memorial Park has designated September as Talk Like a Pirate Month. She said pirate school programs will be offered from Monday to Friday throughout the month.

The ranger said all public and private elementary schools are invited to take part in the Talk Like a Pirate celebration at the American Memorial Park.

This coming Friday, 74 third-grade students from Koblerville Elementary School will participate in these pirate-inspired activities.

For more information or to make reservations for your school, contact Ranger Susan Fishman-Tudor at 234-7207 ext. 2020.

'I Love My Tobacco-Free CNMI' exhibit is a hit at GameCon/Back2School Expo

The Commonwealth Cancer Association joined forces with the Department of Public Health's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program to launch the "I Love My Tobacco-Free CNMI" exhibit at the GameCon/Back2School Expo, which was hosted by *Beach Road* magazine on Sept. 4, 2010 at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

The tobacco-free educational exhibit was a big hit with gamers and their families, who visited the booth all day long from its opening around 11am, to the raffling of the last prize at 5pm. The trivia wheel was an especially popular feature, and included categories such Effects of Tobacco, Secondhand Smoke, Contents of a Cigarette, Clean Indoor Air Act, Financial Cost of Tobacco, Cancer 101, Reduce Your Risk, and Say Yes to a Tobacco-Free Life.

Visitors to the booth were given information, incentive prizes, and raffle tickets for a chance to win more prizes each time they spun the trivia wheel and answered questions from the presenters. More than 140 visits to the booth were counted, including repeat visits, which were strongly encouraged.

Commonwealth Cancer Association board president Alex Sablan expressed his gratitude to DPH's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program for providing the booth, banner, brochures, and incentive items; CCA volunteers Ann Lores, Lolly Villagomez, and Alexis Hofschneider for their hard work and enthusiasm in planning and implementing the exhibit; NMC CREES for lending the trivia wheel and delivering it to the site; and Dr. Jack Hardy for lending his projector screen.

Sablan also thanked the CCA's exhibit sponsors who provided the raffle prizes that were given out periodically throughout the day.

"We approached a number of local companies to request raffle prizes that would appeal to a youthful audience and highlight for them and their families the benefits of a healthy, tobacco-free life," he said. "Our sponsors responded generously with terrific prizes that included go-kart racing passes and complimentary lunch tickets from the Mariana Resort & Spa, a MiFi gift certificate from IT&E, jet ski and banana boat passes from Ben & Ki Watersports, lasertag and waterpark passes from the Pacific Islands Club, gift certificates from Bestseller Bookstore, and Megazone gametime vouchers from Megabyte. Everyone who came to learn something from our booth was given a raffle ticket and a chance to win these great prizes. We saw some very happy tobacco-free winners that day."

The Commonwealth Cancer Association and its partners plan to promote the "I Love My Tobacco-Free CNMI" campaign and exhibit at additional events in the near future. ***(PR)***

BUDGET

From Page 1

another meeting yesterday afternoon.

If the committee goes with the House and the Fitial administration's proposed 16-hour cut, then the government will be able to reduce cost by some $23 million and live within the $132 million projected resources available for government operations in fiscal year 2011—at least that's what Gov. Benigno R. Fitial believes.

He said a 16-hour cut will achieve a balanced budget, just like what he proposed in his submission on April 1.

If the committee agrees with the Senate's eight-hour cut, it has to be accompanied by bills that will generate at least $11.5 million in additional revenue to also help achieve a balanced budget, committee members said.

As of yesterday afternoon, Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) said the committee, which he chairs, has yet to agree on the work hour cuts.

Basa is also the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, which is still reviewing a Senate-amended revenue-generating bill from the House.

Countdown

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Ralph Torres separately said they expect to decide on the work hour cuts today.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) has set a Thursday Senate session. The agenda already includes in its bill calendar a conference committee version of the fiscal year 2011 budget bill, although a copy of which was not available yesterday.

The committee has so far only agreed on an $86,000 cap on the annual discretionary funding of lawmakers, instead of raising it to $130,000 as the House had proposed. They also agreed on giving more to the Public School System and Northern Marianas College to meet the maintenance-of-efforts agreement between the CNMI governor and the U.S. Department of Education.

At this point, Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) is not that optimistic. At the rate things are going, the conference committee may not be able to agree on the work hour cuts and other contentious issues, he said.

Without a budget passed before the fiscal year starts on Oct. 1, the government will shut down, except for essential services, as required by last year's constitutional amendment.

Shutdown

House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), author of the legislative initiative that voters ratified in the 2009 polls, said it is imperative for the Legislature to pass a budget or their salaries will be withheld until a budget is passed.

Benavente has introduced a bill defining "essential services" that will be exempt from a government shutdown if a budget is not passed on time. As of yesterday's it's not clear whether his bill will be acted on during the House's next session.

Taimanao introduced a similar bill identifying the personnel that will be exempt from the government shutdown. Her bill is expected to be acted on during the Senate's Thursday session.

If neither of these bills pass the Legislature, then the governor will have the sole discretion to pick which agency will be exempt from a government shutdown.

Not balanced

Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan), a former Ways and Means Committee chair, said the governor's budget submission is also not balanced. He cited, for example, a lack of appropriation for the Office of the Public Auditor.

Yumul also said the Senate version of the House's revenue-generating bill may be unconstitutional because of "appropriations" provisions that should originate only in the House.

Resource available for government operations has been on a steady decline. From over $200 million a few years back, the government operates on a $137 million budget in fiscal year 2010, and this will further go down to $132 million in fiscal year 2011.

MORE NAMES

From Page 1

received about four.

The Leadership Memorial Courtyard or the Kios-ku project in Chalan Kanoa is part of the revitalization and enhancement efforts to revive the area as a center of commerce and social activities on the island.

The courtyard will include the names of elected leaders on Saipan during the period of the CNMI's political status as a U.S. commonwealth.

It would also include significant appointed leaders prior to the inception of the Commonwealth, taking into account appointed or elected mayors, early Marianas district leaders, chiefs of police, elected or appointed representatives, and others.

Families of past leaders must submit names, titles and any other information related to the individual and their position to the planning committee, either in writing or a nomination form.

"The idea behind the nomination wasn't to make a determination of who is going to go on the [courtyard] wall. It was just to try to ensure that nobody was missing as these things can be contentious," Hunter told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Hunter, the list of potential names to be honored in the courtyard contains mostly those that have been researched by the planning committee from history books and other sources.

But Muña said that the committee also wants to establish the nominees based on nominations from their respective families and not just from their research work.

"We'd like it better to receive the names from family members themselves. That way, we can make sure that the names, titles, and dates are all verified," she said.

Hunter said the planning committee of which he is a member was initially tasked to collect the names and help out in the nomination process.

But the committee's lack of funding gets in the way of promoting at length the nomination process, he said.

"[The committee] should have a pretty robust nomination list to make sure that nobody is missing [from the list]. Once that happens, there's going to be a lot of bad publicity. A lot of people would be complaining," Hunter said.

Muña said there is no deadline yet for the nomination process. Nomination forms are available at the Saipan Municipal Council office or at the CNMI Museum. "If they need the form, they can just call us so we can fax it to them," she said.

For information, contact Muna at 664-2700 or email at spnmunco@yahoo.com.

PENDING

From Page 1

Attorney General.

"This backlog of 89 cases keeps about 350 unemployed aliens in the Commonwealth until the cases are concluded. …In addition, there are about 120 unpaid wage claims pending in the Attorney General's Office which keeps another 100-plus unemployed aliens in the Commonwealth until these claims are resolved," Kaipat told lawmakers.

Labor plans to work with the OAG in the next few weeks to bring additional resources to bear on the cases pending in court.

One of the 89 cases pending as of end-June has been pending for 10 years; six other cases have been pending from three to six years; 12 were filed in 2008; and 50 were filed in 2009.

"The 2009 backlog is particularly troubling because many of these cases could be processed much faster," Kaipat said.

On the 120 unpaid wage claims, Kaipat said Labor processed all these claims against available bonds "and none of the claims are eligible under any bond."

"The attorney general must declare these claims uncollectible, prosecute the claims in the Superior Court, or allow private lawyers to take over these cases," Kaipat added.

She also said Labor would like to work closely with lawmakers to deal quickly with any problems that constituents may have with Labor's processes.

'Inflating job titles'

The progress report said some employers "systematically inflate" the job titles they advertise "in order to discourage locals from applying."

For example, a job may be clerical in nature but was advertised as an accountant position, Kaipat said.

She said CNMI Labor is now auditing job titles to see if they actually fit job responsibilities, in line with Labor's requirement for standard O-NET classifications on all jobs held by foreign workers. O-Net is a U.S. Department of Labor classification system.

Labor is also working on a 12-month rolling forecast of all jobs now held by the foreign workers that will become available.

Reorganization

Labor has reorganized itself in accordance with Public Law 17-1.

It replaced the old Employment Services Division with two sections, each headed by a manager.

The Job Availability Section, headed by Alfred Pangelinan, surveys job availability so that the department will have longer lead time on jobs that are becoming available over the next 12 months. It also ensures job titles accurately reflect the work required "so that U.S. citizens are not frozen out of jobs by inflated requirements."

The Citizens Job Placement Section, headed by Roy Tarope, operates the job placement service.

Labor's Enforcement Section is now focused on enforcement of the job preference and workforce participation requirements.

The department also replaced the old Labor Division with a Guest Worker Section that manages the guest worker program and is headed by James Ulloa.

FBI agent: DPW official extorts $200 from printing press owner

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Thomas S. Salas, a building code inspector of the Department of Public Works, demanded money from the owner of a printing business on Saipan in exchange for not imposing alleged building code violation fines, according to Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Haejun Park.

In his declaration, Park said that Salas got a total of $200 cash from the printing press owner in two separate entrapments that were caught on video.

The FBI arrested the 42-year-old Salas on Friday. A complaint charging him with one count of extortion under color of official right was filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Park said the printing press owner voluntarily approached the FBI to report that Salas has been demanding money from him in exchange for not imposing alleged building code violation fines.

Park said that, beginning in June 2010, several telephone conversations between the printing press owner and Salas were recorded.

In those conversations, the two allegedly discussed details of the payment, the amount, meeting places, and Salas' promise to dismiss the building code violations once payment is received.

The agent said the first prearranged meeting between Salas and the printing press owner took place in the parking lot of the Bank of Hawaii building on July 6, 2010.

He said FBI agents recorded that meeting, using video and audio surveillance.

Park said that Salas arrived aboard a CNMI government vehicle, then entered the printing press owner's vehicle.

After getting $100 cash from the printing press owner, Salas left the scene.

Park said the $100 was a partial payment, with the remaining balance to be paid once Salas returns from a trip to Los Angeles.

Once Salas returned, he contacted the printing press owner again and asked for the rest of the money, Park said.

The second meeting between Salas and the printing press owner took place at the same parking lot on Sept. 17, Park said. The FBI again conducted video and audio surveillance of the meeting.

After the printing business owner handed over a marked $100 bill to Salas, the agents swooped in. The DPW official allegedly tried to drive away but was thwarted.

At yesterday's hearing, U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Philip M. Pro appointed attorney Joseph Horey as counsel for the suspect.

Salas pleaded not guilty.

Preliminary hearing is on Sept. 28, 2010. A detention hearing will be conducted today, Tuesday, at 1:30pm.

Salas was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Aging Office director to attend Georgia conference

Office on Aging director Rose Mondala is scheduled to leave on Friday for a four-day conference in Georgia.

Mondala told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that she will be off-island from Sept. 24 to Oct. 1 to attend the 26th National Home and Community Based Services Conference, scheduled for Sept. 26 to 29 in Atlanta.

The 26th National Home and Community Based Services Conference will feature national, federal, state and local delivery and policy developments on community living supports, care, and services.

About 700 national, federal, state and local leaders as well as advocates nationwide are expected to take part.

According to Mondala, she will be joined by Josefa Barcinas, Aging Office coordinator for Rota, and Roselle Teregeyo, grant writer for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

"I have to attend the conference because they're going to talk about the Affordable Care Act that has been recently implemented," she said.

The Affordable Care Act was signed into law by President Barack Obama last March 23. The law allows the comprehensive health insurance reforms that will reduce health care costs and enhance the quality of health care for all Americans.

During the conference, Mondala said she will look for funding to support the *man'amko* and their various activities at the Aging Center.

Mondala said she will be back in time for the oath taking ceremony of the newly elected officers of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council. ***(Clarissa David)***

Man nabbed for alleged 'ice' trafficking

» Suspect's pa also arrested in March for same charges

The son of a man arrested in March for alleged trafficking of methamphetamine or "ice" is now in the same predicament after being arrested over the weekend on the same charges.

Ignacio M. Deleon Guerrero Jr., 29, also known as Ike Kabayo Junior, was arrested for illegal possession of controlled substance, and trafficking of a controlled substance. Bail was set at $30,000 cash.

Preliminary hearing is on Sept. 27, 2010.

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo yesterday appointed assistant public defender Richard Miller to serve as Deleon Guerrero Jr.'s counsel.

Detective Dennis Masga Reyes stated in his report that members of the Drug Enforcement Task Force, along with detectives from the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Division, were able to buy $50 worth of "ice" from Deleon Guerrero Jr. on July 9, 2010.

Reyes said the officers used a "cooperating source" to buy "ice" from Deleon Guerrero Jr. at a poker arcade in Chalan Kanoa.

In March this year, task force members arrested Deleon Guerrero Jr.'s father, Ignacio A. Deleon Guerrero, 56, and George Taitano Manglona on charges of trafficking "ice." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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DPL: No access yet for Tinian homesteaders to lots

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said Tinian residents could not be allowed early access to their homestead lots prior to construction of an access road because of pending permit requirements from federal and agencies involved in the project.

Babauta

Babauta said this on Thursday, in response to Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider's (R-Tinian) letter on Tuesday, following up on a June letter from DPL, stating that homesteaders may be able to access their homestead lots after four months.

Hofschneider asked whether there's a chance for residents to begin improving their homesteads before the anticipated date.

Babauta said this cannot be allowed prior to construction of the access road pending requirements mostly from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

He said the construction and opening of the access road for homestead is still pending notification from local and federal regulatory agencies such as the Division of Environmental Quality, the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

The earthmoving and erosion control permit is pending approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and CNMI DFW.

DEQ and the CNMI Department of Public Works are also working with the Army Corps of Engineers to address formerly used defense sites in the homestead area.

"We ask that you discuss these matters with our homesteaders on the island of Tinian to give us a little more time to address the above pending issues. We cannot proceed to enter the homestead areas without securing the final go-ahead green light signal from the above permitting agencies, local and federal. Rest assured that we are doing our utmost effort to expedite and complete all necessary permit processing as soon as possible," Babauta told Hofschneider.

There are 429 Tinian families who received homestead lots from DPL in April 2009.

Each homestead lot given to Tinian homesteaders has a size of anywhere between 800 square meters to 1,000 square meters.

Emmanuel College graduate passes NCLEX

Another graduate of Emmanuel College successfully hurdled this week the national licensure examination for nurses, NCLEX. This brings to nine the total number of Emmanuel graduates who have passed the test.

De Leon

Greg De Leon, 39, was among the second batch of Emmanuel College graduates that finished their studies in November last year. He joins the group of graduates that earlier passed the NCLEX, including Sarah Jane Santos, Jian Teng, Xiao Hua Yuan, Cheng Huan, Leonora Angello, Li Li, Ana Victoria Ga, and Paz Echavez.

In an interview yesterday, the father to four children expressed his joy upon receiving the good news.

De Leon is married to Ruth and is currently looking for a job on the island. He hopes to land a job at the Commonwealth Health Center to fulfill his goal of serving the community.

Aafter completing the rigorous 11-month course at Emmanuel College, he started his self-review for the examination. It was only this year when he actually took the test.

He lauded the valuable contribution of his mentors at the college and the support of his family who inspired him to pursue his dream.

The Emmanuel College's Vocational Nursing program is approved and accredited by the CNMI Board of Nursing for a total of 1,564 hours of theory and clinical training for entry-level employment in hospitals and other healthcare settings. *(Moneth G. Deposa)*

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP10-GOV-162

Architectural & Engineering Design for the Tinian Harbor Emergency Repairs

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program Office, are soliciting sealed proposals for the Engineering Design Services for the replacement of new bollards, fender system and repairs of the concrete caps at the Tinian Harbor, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Scope of Work (SOW) will be available on September 8, 2010 at the Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the proposal package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining a proposal package. A Pre-Proposal Meeting is scheduled on September 21, 10:00 a.m at the Governor's Conference Room in Capitol Hill. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia, CIP Project Manager via email lizb@emchen.com or fax to 670-664-2408 no later than September 24, 2010, 4:30 p.m., local time.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, addressing the the scope of work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by consultants, with names of responsible persons identified. Proposers shall also submit a state of qualifications and experience. Proposals shall not exceed twenty five (25) pages. Note that a firm or company that submits as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another proposal. However, subconsultants maybe included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification and Experience on similar projects (25%)
2. Project Approach – (25%)
3. Work load and resources to accomplish the work in the required time frame(25%)
4. Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects (25%)

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"RFP10-GOV-162, Engineering Design Services for the Tinian Harbor Repairs"**. For proposals within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m., local time September 30, 2010. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitted an Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to submit proposal must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 p.m. September 30, 2010 and maybe submitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be marked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal services of the foreign country no later than September 30, 2010 AND must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than October 5, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

House OKs resolution praising reservists and their employers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawmakers paid tribute to the CNMI National Guardsmen and Reservists as well as their employers who continue to support them even as they are deployed overseas through a house resolution.

The House of Representatives adopted Tuesday last week House Resolution 17-21, which honors the U.S. National Guard and Reserve forces and acknowledges the support provided by private and public sector employers while they serve the country.

"Private and public sector employers of Guardsmen and Reservists play a vital role in supporting our troops by ensuring that their service-member employees are mission-ready and focused when called to duty," states in the resolution.

The employers of the service members also sacrifice when their service-member employees are deployed overseas, leaving the companies they work for lacking with skills and services.

These employers "provide a sense of comfort to service members" by ensuring job security upon their return home.

The resolution also proclaimed Sept. 12 to 18 as CNMI Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, encouraging all officials, private and public entities, and military commanders to observe the week "with appropriate ceremonial activities."

The resolution was presented to members of the ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee last Wednesday.

PSS bus driver appeals non-renewal of contract

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bus driver for the Public School System who has been working with the system for about six years now is crying foul over his contract's non-renewal, saying his case merits investigation.

Norman C. Villagomez, a bus driver assigned to the special education program, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he has already obtained legal advice as part of his plan to bring the matter to court.

Villagomez's two-year contract was supposed to expire on Dec. 21, 2010. A few days ago, he was served a 90-day notice of non-renewal, with no reason cited. The notice also did not contain the signature of the education commissioner and the Board of Education.

"A couple of days ago my manager [Eric Atalig] served me a paper stating my contract has not been renewed and I have 90 days left with PSS. He clearly said to me that PSS has nothing to explain in the matter. It may have felt terrible reading that paper, but I tell you, I will not give up working on making a difference for the better," Villagomez said.

He did not sign the document, saying he will not do so until he is given the reason of his non-renewal. He believes his termination violates policies.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to reach bus department supervisor Eric Atalig. Calls to PSS human resource office director Charlie Kenty and the commissioner's office yesterday were also not returned at press time.

Villagomez said that he tried several times to settle the issue with the education commissioner, but always failed to get satisfying responses.

Villagomez has been asking PSS management for certain records relating to his service and was demanding payment for hours rendered. But PSS, in the documents it served the bus driver, refused to pay for the extra services, citing policy.

Villagomez also alleged that newly installed bus supervisor Eric Atalig is picking on him and influenced the decision not to re-hire him. Phone calls to Atalig's office were not answered yesterday.

In a letter dated June 30, 2010, to Villagomez, Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan responded to the bus driver's requests point by point.

Villagomez wants copies of his original timecards from 2005 to June 2010 but Sablan said this could not be done because the statute of limitations under the Fair Labor Standards Act is two years. Based on this timeline, she said time cards from May 2008 up to the present are ready for Villagomez's inspection.

Villagomez had also asked for copies of "unexplained or unsupported altered time cards," copies of his check stubs, and other related service records.

Keynotes dinner concert a success

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More than a hundred guests showed up Sunday at the Palms Resort Theater Hall to watch the Keynotes School of Music dinner concert, dubbed "A Night in September, Time to Remember."

According to music teacher and concert director Dinah Medina, it was a successful event in that the number of people who came to watch the young musicians perform their repertoire exceeded the 80 reservations they made.

"A lot of the guests bought their tickets at the door. We're all excited because it was a very successful event," Medina told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The concert showcased the musical talents of Lizelle Songcuan, Ann Margaret Norcio, Joselle Reyes, Julliane Bigueros, Athena Palejo, Angel Pamintuan, Alvejane Manabat, Brandon Lorenz, Andrea Manese, and Cloency Zuriel Chua, who served as the main act.

The dinner concert was also as a fundraising event to support Chua who will participate in two music festivals in Guam next year: a piano contest in January and the Tumon Bay Music Festival in March.

School director Milagros Merjilla and son Glen were the mistress and master of ceremonies.

According to Medina, the students performed their best and exceeded her expectations, considering that it was the students' first time to be part of a concert.

"Although these children are still young, they did their best and learned so much in a short span of time, which contributed to the success of the concert," she said.

Medina said they have already received an invitation from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation to perform at a cocktail party at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa in Garapan.

Medina said two students and two teachers will perform in two sets on Friday night.

"This will be a great opportunity for the students to get exposure. By doing so, the usually shy students will gain confidence and get used to performing in front of an audience," she said.

With the success of the concert, Medina said they will likely hold another dinner concert next year. She said they will make sure that they will have sufficient amount of preparation for the next one.

Medina expressed appreciation to everyone who showed support for their dinner concert. "We hope they will support our students again next year," she said.

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- ☑ Gold Watches ..... up to $1,750
- ☑ Gold Nugget Rings ..... up to $800
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IT&E and Shell adopt MINA's 14th bin

Ada Gymnasium now has two sets of recycling and mixed waste bins for athletes and fans to use, thanks to IT&E and Isla Petroleum and Energy, or IP&E.

Ericco enterprises delivered the second set of bins this week bringing the Adopt-a-Bin program to a total of 13 recycling stations; nearly doubling MINA's original goal of just seven locations for Saipan.

The bins are funded through a grant from NOAA's Marine Debris Program.

Adopting organizations pay for one year of trash collection services, reducing the amount of litter left on the ground that eventually washes into surrounding waters.

"As a petroleum company, environmental stewardship is important to us, especially with the recent unfortunate events in the Gulf," said Jeff Boyer, general manager of IP&E. "We want to highlight the fact that the industry as a whole is very proactive in looking after the environment. What better way than by partnering with our sister company, IT&E, which is also keen on environmental protection. MINA's Adopt-a-Bin program is a simple yet effective way to keep our islands clean."

As part of their responsibilities, employees from both adopting businesses will be taking part in the 2010 International Coastal Clean Up day this Friday, and cleaning the area around their bins at Ada Gymnasium and the beach area across the street. This event promises to be even larger than last year.

"Many of our sponsored teams and athletes participate in sports events at the gym. So whether its basketball, baseball, softball, badminton or soccer our athletes serve as examples to the community every time they make use of the bins during practice," said Nola Hix, IT&E marketing associate.

IT&E adopted its first bin for the gym in July. "We are proud to be apart of MINA's Program," said Hix, "We hope the availability of public bins will help push the practice and need for the people in the CNMI to dispose of their trash properly. Recycling at your nearest convenience is a start."

For more information about MINA's Adopt-a-Bin Program and Marine Debris prevention project, visit www.minapacific.org and click on the Goals & Project page or contact 233-Reef, or kathyjuk@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

COMMISSIONING RITES CLARISSA V. DAVID

Newly commissioned 2Lt. Bruce Camacho receives his pins from father Joseph Camacho, mother Lydia Barcinas, and grandfather David Camacho during a commissioning ceremony held Friday at the Northern Marianas College. The newly commissioned lieutenant will report to his Infantry Basic Officer Course on January 3, 2011.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Retirement groups sets membership meeting

The Commonwealth Retirement Association is having a general membership meeting this Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, at 6pm. Important matters will be discussed regarding the Retirement Fund. Those active employees with the government who are members of the defined benefit plan are welcome to attend. For more information, call Juan M. Sablan at 287-5877. ***(PR)***

Attention to all FSM citizens in NMI

This is to inform all citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia residing in the Northern Mariana Islands that there is a task force committee coming from Palikir to conduct political education on the proposed amendments to the FSM constitution.

The schedule of meeting are as follows:

- Sunday (Sept. 26, 2010), at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan, from 5pm to 7pm for the Chuukese community, as requested.
- Monday (Sept. 27, 2010), at the Multi-Purpose Building in Susupe, from 5pm to 7pm.

Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings so you may be ready to vote and express your opinions on the proposals before the upcoming national general election in March 2011. ***(PR)***

Hopwood sets Parent Summit

The Hopwood Junior High School will be hosting a Parent Summit on Sept. 18, 2010, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm. The Parent Summit is a wonderful opportunity for parents and teachers to collaborate regarding students' continued educational success both in and outside of the classroom. Agenda will include school data, opportunities for students, school expectations, accreditation in March, standards and benchmarks, programs, and PSS strategies and priorities. ***(PR)***

Attention to veterans

WIA, in partnership and collaboration with the CNMI Veterans Affairs Office and Guam Department of Labor, encourages CNMI veterans who are in need of assistance in obtaining employment and benefits information to contact the Pacific Region's Disabled Veterans Outreach Program coordinator, Jackie Nguyen, Guam Department of Labor, at (671) 477-0719, (671) 475-7045 (fax) or via email at jackie.nguyen@dol.guam.gov.

Additionally, pursuant to the Jobs for Veterans Act (P.L. 107-288) (38 USC 4215), priority of service is provided to veterans (and certain spouses). For more information on POS, contact WIA at 664-1705, 1707 or 1708 or visit www.wia.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

San Antonio Elementary PTA meeting today

The San Antonio Elementary School will be hosting the school's first PTA meeting for school year 10-11 on Sept. 21, 2010. The meeting will be held at 6pm in the school cafeteria. All parents and community members are invited to attend this important first meeting. Agenda items include selection of new officers for SY 10-11 and sharing of school achievement data from the previous school year. ***(PR)***

Saipan Southern High sets PTA meeting

To all parents/ legal guardian of Saipan Southern High School, there will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010, from 6pm to 7pm, in the Manta café. ***(PR)***

Military training on FDM, Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training on Farallon de Medinilla on Sept. 22-27, from 5am to 11pm, and Sept. 28, from noon to 6pm, and on Warning Area-517 on Sept. 22, from 8am to 2pm.

The general public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and date indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the CNMIs.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 21, 2000

Creation of free trade zones nears

Legislation creating free trade zones in the Northern Marianas is likely to be signed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio despite reinstatement of key provisions that he asked to be deleted when he vetoed the initial proposal early this year. He told reporters yesterday he is ready to sign the measure, but said he would outline the administration's concerns so that the Legislature can amend it. HB 12-11 has been pending for his signature since end of July, and his power to act on it expires this week. Even without his approval, it will automatically become a law. Intended to boost the local economy and expand its base beyond tourism and garment manufacturing, the administration-sponsored legislation has been in the works for the past two years.

Woodruff's role as CUC legal counsel questioned

Dismayed by lack of legal advice on pending legislation, Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez yesterday questioned the absence of legal counsel Steve Woodruff whom he said is off-island to assist the board of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. He said there may be conflict with the two hats worn by Mr. Woodruff as legal counsel to both the Senate and CUC, noting he can not meet the demands of the two jobs. "It looks like there is a conflict of interest. Who is the Senate legal counsel? Is he representing the Senate or CUC," he told reporters in an interview. "We have to address that." Mr. Woodruff has been serving the Senate as its lead counsel for the last 10 years, according to Mr. Villagomez, but said it may be time for him to go.

Sept. 21, 2001

Fitial gives $70K from House to MVA

Speaker Benigno Fitial today donated $70,000 from the House of Representatives leadership account to help the Marianas Visitors Authority with emergency promotional efforts in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the U.S. According to Fitial, the House leadership made the donation without hesitation following meetings this week where the immediate and severe downturn in tourism was assessed. "We are very grateful for the donation from Speaker Fitial and the House leadership and for their quick action in trying to help us address this situation," said MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio.

Tinian, Rota mull local tourism

With the current slump in visitor arrivals from abroad, Tinian and Rota leaders will be focusing their efforts more on local tourism, to entice people from Saipan and Guam to visit their islands. Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano related that, to offset the drop in international tourists, "we're concentrating right now on the Saipan and Guam markets." Adriano said the occupancy rate at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino has dropped down so low that the tourism industry in Tinian "is dying right now because of this situation." He related that he met the other day with the mayor's delegation and the municipal council in Tinian and discussed several options. "Today, we will finalize what directions we will be taking," he said.

Sept. 21, 2002

NMI seeks anti-terror grant

The CNMI could soon receive federal funds that the local government can use to prepare the Commonwealth for the threat of terrorist attacks. This comes soon after U.S. President Bush signed into law the 2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act, which provides funding for recovery from terrorist attacks and preparations for any such attacks in the future. The funds, to be routed through the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the form of grants, is available to all states, territories, tribal nations, local governments, and citizens.

BOE's aim for contracting powers opposed

House Education Committee Chair Daniel O. Quitugua plans to counter the Board of Education's attempt to gain full control over the Public School System's Capital Improvement Projects, as he expressed doubts over the BOE's ability to oversee the technical aspects of school constructions. Quitugua, a former BOE chair, said PSS simply lacks the technical expertise, not to mention personnel, to take over the contracting responsibility from the Department of Public Works. "I would challenge this. I am against the idea of PSS running its own CIP because they don't have the number of FTEs necessary to have the work done," the legislator said.

Interior names US Labor point of contact for federalization matters

USDOE to Vila: You have right to access your child's records

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services has advised the parent of a child with special needs that he is within his rights to demand access to his daughter's education records with the Public School System.

In a three-page letter to Allan Vila, USDOE education program specialist Lucille Sleger told him that his complaint letter has been forwarded to the Office of Special Education Programs within the USDOE Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services.

She emphasized that Vila's concerns about not being given access to records of his daughter's education records are addressed under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 or FERPA, which applies for CNMI.

Vila was told to obtain from PSS the requested documents using FERPA's policy and requirements.

Vila had sought the federal agency's help, claiming that PSS had refused to provide him copies of his daughter's school records.

Because Vila also lamented the unqualified related service providers who work with his daughter, Sleger said the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, addresses personnel qualifications and these regulations require the CNMI to establish and maintain standards.

Sleger advised Vila of three options he can take to reach a satisfying solution to his dispute with PSS: using the complaint resolution system pursuant to federal law; the due process procedures; and the right to request mediation.

The federal official said the CNMI is responsible for adopting and implementing procedures for resolving any complaint that meets the requirements. She said under federal standards, the CNMI has 60 days from the date of receipt of a formal complaint to investigate and provide the complainant with a written decision that addresses each allegation in the complaint and contains findings of fact and conclusions and the reasons for the final decision.

Sleger pointed out that the 60-day timeline could only be extended for exceptional circumstances. She provided Vila all the reference federal laws that would aid the father in the process.

Vila earlier disagreed with the resolution offered by Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan regarding his concerns.

Vila's 8-year-old daughter has pervasive developmental disorder and constantly needs the service of qualified experts in the field.

ABE extends placement testing

NMC's Adult Basic Education Extended Placement Testing for General Educational Development, Adult School, and English as a Second Language is scheduled for today, Sept. 21, 2010.

The extended registration is scheduled for Sept. 22 – 24, 2010, from 9am to 4pm.

For more information, contact the Adult Basic Education Office at 234-3690 Ext. 1723, 1724, or 1721 located in Blg.G at the As Terlaje Campus.

In addition, to ratchet up efforts to recruit instructors, NMC is encouraging all interested individual to submit their application at NMC Human Resource Office located in building P. All applications will then be forward to the ABE State Office for review and then routed to respective content area departments for certification.

The Adult Basic Education Program receives the bulk of its funding from the U.S. Department of Education/ Office of Vocational and Adult Education. ***(NMC)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy belated birthday greetings go out to Jemma Larra, who celebrated her birthday on Monday, Sept. 20! Much love and many more birthdays to come from your SHCP 2010 family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Anna Manibusan, who celebrated her birthday on Sept. 20! Hope you had a great one! May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come! Love always from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Special birthday greetings to Boboy Perez from his loving wife, Pau Perez.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce with questions or concerns regarding the U.S. Department of Labor, its activities in the CNMI and its responsibilities under the federalization law should contact William Carlson, administrator of the U.S. Labor's Office of Foreign Labor Certification.

Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Anthony Babauta said this in a letter to Chamber president Douglas Brennan.

Carlson can be reached by email at Carlson.william@dol.gov and at (202) 693-3010.

Chamber members, as well as Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, have been asking U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis to send a representative to the CNMI to provide guidance and address concerns on determining the prevailing wage for foreign workers, among other things.

He said "the delays and problems created by this absence and the lack of information from your department are adding to people's anxiety and frustration," Sablan added.

POINT OF CONTACT
WILLIAM CARLSON
Administrator, U.S. Labor's Office of Foreign Labor Certification
Email: Carlson.william@dol.gov
Tel: (202) 693-3010

The prevailing wage is different from—and is generally higher than—the minimum wage.

Sablan, in an earlier letter to U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, said the U.S. Labor, which is an integral participant in this transition process, "remains largely absent from the scene and unavailable for guidance."

Babauta, in responding to Chamber letters, said U.S. Labor has had continuing contact with the CNMI Department of Labor, the Governor's Office and Sablan's office, as well as the Chamber, to provide training and technical assistance regarding the transition as it specifically relates to various foreign labor programs.

He also said that U.S. Labor extended an offer to conduct further training to provide Chamber members with more information and guidance on foreign labor certification programs.

U.S. Labor investigators from the Wage and Hour Division are also on the ground on Saipan to enforce the Fair Labor Standards Act and other worker protection laws.

Babauta's letter also raises Interior's concerns about CNMI Public Law 17-1 and its accompanying regulations, saying that alien registration is a function of the federal-not territorial-government, among other things. But the CNMI Labor disagrees.

CNMI Labor's alien registration began on Sept. 7 and wraps up on Nov. 30, 2010.

Faisao terminates complaining employee

» Ada: Faisao's action is retaliatory conduct

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao has terminated a demoted juvenile probation supervisor who had complained against Faisao's alleged illegal reorganization of the department with the Civil Service Commission.

Faisao issued a memorandum Wednesday last week notifying Sylvio S. Ada that his termination will take effect on Sept. 30, 2010.

Ada, through counsel Robert T. Torres, filed a notice of appeal yesterday with the Civil Service Commission, asserting that Faisao's action is retaliatory in nature and that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial should sanction Faisao for this.

Ada asked the Civil Service Commission to order his reinstatement and direct Faisao to undergo training and education on the requirements of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations.

The case came about after Faisao merged the Juvenile Probation Unit and the Juvenile Detention Unit a few weeks ago as part of a larger departmental shakeup.

Ada complained with the Civil Service Commission that this reorganization is illegal and affects the rights and positions of civil service employees.

In the termination letter he issued Ada, Faisao claimed that Ada deceived the government in December 2009 when he justified a CNMI Government Travel Authorization to and from Rota by claiming a bogus court hearing for a juvenile probation client.

"Your alleged action in your capacity as a government employee has raised concerns and prompted DCCA to take administrative action against you for your display of misconduct," Faisao said.

In Ada's appeal to Civil Service Commission, Torres said this case "illustrates the very reason for the Civil Service Act and the Personnel System Rules and Regulations to protect civil service employees from arbitrary conduct and political reprisals and personal agendas."

Torres said Ada's Aug. 23, 2010, response to the proposed adverse action provides substantial evidence that the adverse action was unsupported, without any basis, and motivated by personal or political animus.

Torres said Ada expressly requested, pursuant to the PSSRR and the notice of proposed adverse action, to review all materials in support of the proposed adverse action.

Torres said the requested materials include any investigative reports or interview notes by any DCCA investigators or OPM personnel.

"None were provided," said the lawyer.

However, Torres noted that OPM did review Ada's response.

Torres said the OPM memorandum gave credence and weight to Ada's response and advised Faisao to reconsider his position on the proposed adverse action and to rescind such notice.

"Melvin Faisao refused," the lawyer stressed.

Torres said Ada's response was supported by substantial evidence and confirmed independently by OPM.

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTLITIES COMMISSION
NOTICE OF SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday September 24, 2010 at the offices of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda will be available at the meeting for public inspection. Questions regarding the agenda should be referred to Commissioner Kyle Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

AGENDA

1. Call to order – quorum
2. Approval of minutes of May 28, 2010 meeting
3. Docket 09-1 – CUC Electric Division.
   - LEAC rate – October 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011 and related matters
   - OSROCO procurement [oil spill response plan]
   - Georgetown report – renewable energy standards
4. Docket 09-3 – Telecommunications
   - USAC Certification: Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation [MTC] and PTI Pacifica, Inc.
   - MTC – Regulatory review: insurance, tariff amendments, service quality standards, institution of Federal standards, contract review protocol, interim DID tariff.
5. Administrative business:
   - Resolution addressing staff protocol
   - Administrative order – delegation of authority
6. Other business

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Community Guidance Center
Guma' Ina' Ayuda Imwaal Alillis
(Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services)

Mental Health Planning Council
3rd Quarter Meeting
September 22, 2010
Pacific islands Club

I. Preliminary Matters
- a. Call to order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes (5/12/10)

II. Old Business
- a. Chair Report
- b. Subcommittee Reports
  - i. Membership/by-laws
  - ii. Legislative/Regulatory
  - iii. Planning
- c. MHPC/Coalition Project
- d. Rota Report
- e. Tinian Report
- f. TLC Updates
- g. Concerns

III. New Business
- a. Review and comment of 2011 Block Grant Application
- b. Guam 3rd Annual Regional Systems of Care Conference

IV. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- a. CMHS Review
- b. SAPTember Awareness Month

V. Next Meeting
- a. TBA

VI. Adjournment

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 225

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Star power at the U.N.

A single mother of three, survivor of prison torture and exile. A pediatrician, linguist and practiced buster of gender barriers as the first female president of Chile. This is the resume that makes Michelle Bachelet an excellent choice to lead the newly created U.N. agency to promote gender equality around the globe, to be called U.N. Women.

With her appointment this week, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has brought some badly needed star power to the world organization in general and to women's issues in particular. Now he must ensure that Bachelet has the money, staff and political support to do the job successfully.

Fifteen years ago, U.N. member states signed a declaration in Beijing dedicating themselves to ending discrimination against women and closing a gender gap in a dozen areas, including education, health, employment, political participation and human rights. Although some progress has been made, it isn't nearly enough. Women still suffer higher rates of poverty and illiteracy than men and have less access to full-time and high-paying jobs. They face forced marriages, genital mutilation, sexual enslavement and rape as a weapon of war, which the U.N. Security Council has recognized as a crime against humanity.

Take the case of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Last year, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton visited eastern Congo to focus attention on the widespread use of rape in that country's conflicts and to call for an end to "the sexual and gender-based violence committed by so many."

This year, Ban appointed Margot Wallstrom of Sweden as the U.N.'s first special representative on sexual violence in conflict. Yet rape remains a weapon of choice in Congo. The U.N. reported that about 500 women and girls were raped by rebel groups in July alone; about 15,000 rapes are recorded each year. The U.N. has apologized for the failure of its peacekeepers in Congo to protect the population when the government did not. The problem, according to human rights groups, is impunity. Surely if Congolese men were being gang-raped at gunpoint in such numbers, something would be done about it.

Bachelet won't be able to solve all of the world's unfinished gender business, of course, but she is a leader with a strong record in fighting for women's rights. As president, she named 10 men and 10 women to her Cabinet, legalized alimony payments to divorced women in that Catholic country and spoke out on discrimination against women.

She'll need to be a good bureaucratic combatant as well. Her agency will encompass four others that work on women's issues, absorbing their staffs and combined budget of about $220 million, with field operations dependent on voluntary contributions from member states. She and Ban must make sure the donors pay up, and fulfill the agenda for gender equality launched in 1995.

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A melting Arctic hits home

By SCOTT HIGHLEYMAN and HENRY HUNTINGTON
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

As the Arctic melts due to climate change, its iconic marine mammals are feeling the heat. The Arctic Ocean held less sea ice in June of this year than any previous June on record. For the last four summers, the ice melt has exceeded what even pessimistic climate models predicted only a few years ago.

Yet ice and its inhabitants define this region: take away the ice, take away the Arctic. Without wildlife conservation measures and a serious attempt to address climate change, the adverse impacts will only grow.

Between 1979 and 2000, the Arctic held an average of 7 million square kilometers of sea ice even in late summer. In 2007, only 4.3 million square kilometers of ice remained, meaning that 40 percent of this habitat was lost. By comparison, about 20 percent of the Amazon rainforest has been destroyed by clear-cutting—an environmental tragedy that has been widely covered.

Changes this large impose consequences. Since prehistoric times, up to 250,000 walrus have moved northward each summer into the Chukchi Sea, following retreating sea ice. There, off the northern coast of Alaska, walrus feed on clams in the seabed, resting on ice between their dives. Female walrus nurse their young on the ice floes. When the ice rapidly disappeared there during the summer of 2007, thousands of walrus were forced onto land where they risked trampling deaths, predation by bears and depletion of food sources.

As an occasional occurrence, this might not be cause for alarm. A few dozen walrus have often come ashore in Alaska. Along the Russian coast of the Chukchi Sea, thousands of walrus congregate on beaches in late summer before heading south to the Bering Sea. But the conditions in today's Arctic are prompting a major ecological shift and walrus face new pressures as they try to adapt.

Meanwhile, rapidly melting sea ice is opening the region to increased industrial activities, including oil and gas development and more ship traffic, which in turn have the potential to further stress marine mammals. The United States has halted commercial fishing in its Arctic waters for the foreseeable future as a precautionary measure. But commercial shipping plus offshore oil and gas activities are likely to spur extensive coastal infrastructure development and introduce oil rigs to waters where walrus feed. These human impacts must be minimized if walrus are to survive and flourish.

In the eastern Canadian Arctic, the narwhal's future is just as uncertain. Long a source of fascination, Europeans once thought that the creature's long spiral tooth protruding from the front of its head was like the horn of the unicorn. Instead, scientists discovered that the tooth is an extraordinary sensor for temperature, salinity and other ocean conditions and may help with navigation and feeding. Today, up to 60,000 narwhal, or 85 percent of the world's population, migrate in summer through Lancaster Sound, at the eastern entrance to the Northwest Passage. They spend winters feeding on Greenland halibut more than a kilometer below the surface of Baffin Bay.

As sea ice retreats and takes longer to re-freeze each fall, narwhal will also have to respond. Scientists have rated it as the marine mammal most vulnerable to the loss of sea ice. As with walrus, however, habitat changes are not the only risks for narwhal. Increased commercial fishing in Baffin Bay could reduce the species' food sources as well.

The development of a sound, fishery-related ecosystem management plan will allow these marine mammals every chance to adapt as best they can. The Canadian government's promise to create a national marine conservation area in Lancaster Sound also is a crucial step towards helping protect narwhal.

Losing sea ice not only impacts high-profile animals such as walrus and narwhal. Many species have adapted to live only in the Arctic, supporting a food web that begins with tiny algae growing under and in the ice. Conservation measures that encompass wildlife, fishing, shipping and drilling are needed now in Arctic waters, lest its ecology becomes a historical artifact rather than a vital part of our global heritage. And ultimately, if the loss of sea ice is to be slowed or reversed, the human causes of climate change must be addressed. An Arctic without ice deprives not just the narwhal and walrus, but all of us.

Scott Highleyman (highleyman@pewtrusts.org) is director of the Pew Environment Group's international Arctic program and Henry Huntington (hhuntington@pewtrusts.org) is science director for the Arctic program.

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Peace be with you

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Today is officially known as the International Day of Peace as well as World Peace Day observed by all members of the United Nations. The day, declared for official observance in 1981, began with the peace bell that Japan started ringing in 1954 to remind itself and the rest of the world of the incredible cost of war. A bell was donated to the United Nations before Japan was admitted to the body, and each year since 1981, that bell has been rung in New York for a global ceasefire in any arena of military conflict where a UN member is engaged in.

As we cannot legislate morality, neither can we mandate serenity. That a day is dedicated and celebrated as a day of peace can only be a symbol of hope. It also affirms what we have since consigned to posters and bumper stickers, the old Chinese saying: *It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness*. Indeed, the cynical amongst us need only point to national budgets for the support and maintenance of the military, and the allocations for combat engagement cost, to understand that we are not even talking here of the magnitude of a David and Goliath, more like a microscopic gnat to an overgrown elephant.

That's where the members of the Immanuel United Methodist Church, particularly their young, are inviting the public to join them in the lighting of candles during a 30-minute International Peace Day Candlelight Vigil tonight at 7pm in Chalan Kanoa—to precisely light a candle and not curse the darkness. Or, in this day of modern technology, IUMC invites children to come and flick a flashlight for peace, as well! Though a religious body, the IUMC is promoting this vigil as non-religious though profoundly spiritual.

On the religious front, the Catholic communion has always observed a World Peace Sunday in various parts of the world. The Hiroshima Memorial Cathedral observed one last Aug. 1, personally memorable on my birthday, but also because I was that week covering the Manhattan Project Symposium that Dan Farrell on Tinian organized for the 65th year commemoration of the dropping of Little Boy and the Fat Man a-bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops focused last Sunday on Peace, along with Justice and Human Development.

We all know, of course, that peace is not just the absence of conflict—military or otherwise. Those in the Christian tradition ritualize the "passing of the peace" in their liturgy, and this is not a focus on an internal state of being as it is a stabilizing connection one to another, like the gesture of hands clasped (from where the Mesopotamian handshake comes from), not only to signify that one has no weapon to do another harm, but most importantly, at least, in my Christian understanding, the extending of the "peace that passeth all understanding." It is peace directed at and in connection with the life of "an other"!

Like all other profound religious inventions, this passing of the peace is an affirmation of *what is* rather than a curse of *what is not*. Lighting a candle speaks of intentionality and purpose rather than the knee-jerk rage over something that we do not have, or of the fear of what we do not understand, or worse, what is not there. Have you noticed how many films are currently showing in our theater about our fear of the uncertain and the unknown? The base titillation is crass and cheap, but it seems to work. In our pantheon of idols, we now have images of bloodsuckers (vampires) in our children's bedrooms!

No less than our illustrious pedagogue Ambrose, who has a forgettable long history of sticking his you-know-what into his you-know-where, an avowed Republican no less, bewails our current Washington Rep for failure to spend $400K that was available for his spending. Mind you, the tax-and-spend Democrats that our Rep is identified with are usually charged for spending too much, but AB was focused on what-is-not rather than what-is. At least, Uncle Ben is pointing to where the Rep might be claiming too much credit for the largesse coming out of Washington. Mine is simply a measure

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

of efficiency and effectivity. Are least efforts and maximum benefits prevailing, and are the intended beneficiaries making do with the resource being made available? That's the nature of politics as currently practiced. As to how it can be otherwise, that's how AB might focus his attention. I do.

Cursing the darkness is delighting in the illusory psychological comfort of a raised fist. Momentarily, it's therapeutic, but in the long run, "doesn't get us nowhere." That's why Immanuel UMC's invite to join their vigil (if unable, light a candle at your home, and pause in a vigil mode for 30 minutes!) is no big deal, but also, a big deal. They are extending the "peace that passeth all understanding," that one might find, at least for 30 minutes, the *stillness that lingers in one's soul.* (Thanks to retired Presbyterian clergy Ms. Ellie Stock for the image.)

Stillness lingers in my soul.
Dark night seems so very long.
When hope is gone,
This restless one moves on.
Quiet steps and lighted candles,
with others tandem walk.
Silence is our song.
Stillness lingers in my soul.

For thirty minutes. Peace.

A vision for the Commonwealth

By RUTH L. TIGHE
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The word "vision" keeps popping up of late. Especially in the rhetoric of the candidates. But it also belongs in discussions of how ARRA monies should be used, in the drawing up of a balanced budget, in evaluating whether or not to put the zoning code on hold.

Judge Jose delaCruz, in his recently published book *From Colonialism to Self-Government: the Northern Marianas Experience* talks about a vision for the CNMI in terms of such things as having a good quality of life, having a lifestyle that promotes good health, a well-educated population, a sound economy, and fair and equal treatment for all members of the community.

Jane Mack, in her blog, http://www.saipanwriter.blogspot.com/ (see her Sept. 8 entry), would include development of a work ethic, separating family loyalties from political loyalties, in a proposed vision statement.

A "vision" can also be thought of in a much broader setting. For example, it might be what islanders want the CNMI to be, and how they might want others to view, think about, see, the CNMI. Do they want to become—do they want others to think of the CNMI as—an industrial center, with factories and hordes of factory workers living in barracks? As one big shopping mall? As totally urbanized, complete with vista-blocking high rises and traffic jams? As a "wild" place, with legalized marijuana and casino gambling?

The CNMI's warm weather, warm, clear waters, lush greenery and exotic flowers, tropical birds, broad vistas, historic sites, coral reefs and sandy beaches may just seem normal and ordinary to those who live here. But to those who are its primary potential clientele—people from Asia, Alaska, Australia—such tropical island characteristics often constitute their vision of a perfect vacation site—something desirable that they do not have at home.

It is true that the CNMI does not have Palau's Rock Islands, it does not have Pohnpei's Nan Madol, or Maui's waterfalls, Waikiki's extensive beaches, Guam's shopping malls, the Philippines' bargain goods at bargain prices, Bali's distinctive charm. Its only natural resource—other than Pagan's alleged pozzolan—is nature itself. But in addition to the attraction of being tropical islands, the CNMI has other valuable advantages—that of being conveniently accessible, as well as being politically stable and being under the American flag.

The vision, then, of what CNMI could become, and what it could offer others (others meaning mainly tourists, but also investors) is that of a peaceful, relaxing place that emphasizes what nature offers not only on land—with its tiny tropical birds, colorful tropical flowers, great, green swaths of wildlife sanctuary and scenic vistas—but also underwater, with a variety of tropical fish and distinctive corals—a model of conscious and responsible protection and preservation of the environment—as well as a place with a unique culture reflected in its food, artifacts, dances and music; a place of both historic and unique archaeological interest; a place where a diverse population co-habits peacefully and consequently offers, among other things, an unusually wide range of dining experiences.

If this—a nature-based environment-friendly place—were adopted as the vision for the CNMI it would give focus to all manner of decisions and actions that now occur willy-nilly. For example, is a six-story building along the shoreline really a good idea when open vistas are part of the vision of what the CNMI should be? Does it make sense to build a road through a major area of undisturbed forest when protection of greenery and habitat are part of CNMI's vision? Does a casino fit that vision? Should federal funding go to short-term present needs like personnel, or to more permanent infrastructure needs?

The vision could extend further without jeopardizing its "green" image: it could include an organic agriculture industry and production of healthy herbal medicines, it could broaden its offerings to schooling for foreign students; it could develop retirement communities for senior citizens of other countries, to name just a few.

A vision for the future based on what nature offers would seem to be the most logical, economical, practical choice for the CNMI to make. The CNMI would not be dependent on others to bring in raw materials, on a large unskilled labor force, on other's tax and trade codes. It would not take years to develop. It would not have to await wealthy foreign investors. The basics are in place now—all it would take is nurturing what is already there.

Judge Dela Cruz wrote that a group had been meeting to talk about what could be done to help the Commonwealth, but that "It would be pointless for the group to keep on making recommendations if island leaders do not follow up on the recommendations."

His group did discuss establishing a nonpartisan 'future commission' charged with drafting a written vision for the future, but apparently has not followed up on the idea. Since it was envisioned as being non-political, it would seem unnecessary to wait for the government—or any of its branches—to form such a commission. The group, as members of the private sector, could establish it themselves as a non-profit institution and develop their own charter. With respected people of integrity on the board, such an institution could well achieve credibility in its own right. It could itself provide the leadership that the group found lacking in today's environment.

In the absence of activity on other fronts, perhaps the Chamber of Commerce could take the lead here, and put out a call for people interested in developing a vision statement for the CNMI? Or Sam McPhetres could assign his students to draw up one, or several, candidates for vision statements that could then be presented to, discussed by, the general community.

The CNMI sorely needs a shared vision of what its future should look like. The sooner one is developed—and endorsed by all—the easier all those critical decisions would be, the better those decisions would be, the healthier the economy would become, and the more the CNMI and its people would flourish.

Letter to the Editor

Don't be ashamed; ask for help

Dear people of the CNMI: September has been proclaimed as "Substance Abuse Recovery Month."

Let me introduce myself. I am a recovering alcoholic and drug user. I have been clean and sober going on to four years. I almost lost my family. I lost my car, almost lost everything I had due to substance abuse. I spent more than six months in jail.

I was in denial until I reached rock bottom. But there is "good news." There is help out there like the Community Guidance Center, Alcoholic Anonymous, different religious groups, the Family Court, and many more.

I wrote simple verses of inspiration for those of you who need help.

Recovery

Playing around
Started drinking
Enjoying my life
Started smoking weed
Enjoying my life
Quit school

Went to the doc
Told me I'm dying
Now I'm crying

Stopped my drinking
Making the most of my life
Stopped my smoking and using drugs
Making the most of my life
Went back to school
Making the most of my life
Found my God
Now I'm not crying anymore

I am no better than anyone else, but I did find help. I turned my life around. My family life has improved one hundred percent. I am now a business owner. I have tilapia farm. I teach at Northern Marianas Traders Institute. My friends are now real, not fake. If I can do it, anyone can!

Please don't be ashamed. If you have a problem, ask for help. You can call Chris Sablan at the Community Guidance Center. He had helped me a lot. He is one of the most helpful persons I know of when it comes to that particular problem. You may also call Alcoholic Anonymous. Should you need my help and guidance, I will be willing to assist you through the system. Let's make this a new year.

Dr. Bill William Kintz
DPW, Trades Technician
San Antonio, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

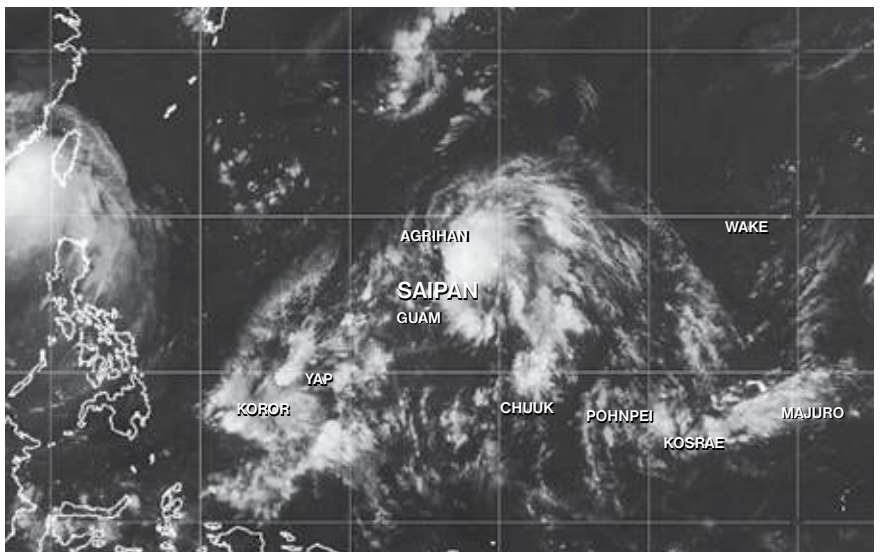
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲88	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Rain	▲87	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲57	▼52
Beijing	Sunny	▲70	▼52
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲83	▼69
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼53
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲80	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼47
Miami	Showers	▲89	▼79
New York	Sunny	▲73	▼61
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲85	▼70
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼51
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲75	▼67
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼62
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼47
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼55
Seoul	Showers	▲70	▼62
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲87	▼70
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲81	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southwestward from 22N150E through a tropical disturbance northeast of Saipan which remains the subject of a tropical cyclone formation alert from the joint Typhoon Warning Center across the Marianas to end at 11N141E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are found near the CNMI in an area bounded by a line from 17N140E to 8N152E to 18N158E to 24N151E back to 17N140. Another surface trough extends northward between Palau and Yap from 5N134E to 14N138E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms spread across Palau and near Yap in an area bounded by 17N136E to 7N130E to 4N134E to 2N130E to EQ134N to 6N144E back to 17N136E. An upper low near 23N134E southeast of Okinawa is triggering a few thunderstorms between 20N and 24N from 130E to 134E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line extending from 6N160E to 5N165E to 9N171E across Kwajalein and Kosrae.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:33 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
5:55 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
12:39 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
6:57 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:14 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:14 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:45 PM	4:08 AM
Wednesday	5:20 PM	4:55 AM
Thursday	5:55 PM	5:41 AM
Friday	6:31 PM	6:27 AM
Saturday	7:09 PM	7:15 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Blown-out BP well finally killed at bottom of Gulf

By HARRY R. WEBER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

A cement plug has permanently killed BP's runaway well nearly 2.5 miles (four kilometers) below the sea floor in the Gulf of Mexico, five agonizing months after an explosion sank a drilling rig and led to the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

Retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the federal government's point man on the disaster, said Sunday that BP's well "is effectively dead" and posed no further threat to the Gulf. Allen said a pressure test to ensure the cement plug would hold was completed at 5:54 a.m. CDT (1054 GMT).

President Barack Obama called the successful "kill" for the blown-out well a milestone in his administration's response to the disaster. Obama said in a statement that his administration remains committed to doing everything possible to ensure that the Gulf Coast recovers fully from the disaster.

AP
This April 21, 2010 file photo shows the Deepwater Horizon oil rig burning after an explosion in the Gulf of Mexico, off the southeast tip of Louisiana.

The gusher was contained in mid-July after a temporary cap was successfully fitted atop the well. Mud and cement were later pushed down through the top of the well, allowing the cap to be removed.

But the well could not be declared dead until a relief well was drilled so that the ruptured well could be sealed from the bottom, ensuring it never causes a problem again. The relief well intersected the blown-out well Thursday, and crews started pumping in the cement on Friday.

The April 20 blast killed 11 workers, and 206 million gallons (780 million liters) of oil spewed.

The disaster caused an environmental and economic nightmare for people who live, work and play along hundreds of miles (kilometers) of Gulf shoreline from Florida to Texas. It also spurred civil and criminal investigations, cost gaffe-prone BP chief Tony Hayward his job, and brought increased governmental scrutiny of the oil and gas industry, including a costly moratorium on deepwater offshore drilling that is still in place.

Gulf residents will be feeling the pain for years to come. There is still plenty of oil in the water, and some continues to wash up on shore. Many people are still struggling to make ends meet with some waters still closed to fishing. Shrimpers who are allowed to fish are finding it difficult to sell their catch because of the perception — largely from people outside the region — that the seafood is not safe to eat. Tourism along the Gulf has taken a hit.

NAVFAC Pacific awards $158.13M contract for Guam naval hospital

PEARL HARBOR—The Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific awarded a $158 million firm-fixed price contract Sept. 16 to Watts Webcor Obayashi A JV, a large business company from Honolulu, Hawaii, for the construction of a new replacement naval hospital in Guam.

The construction of the hospital is not funded with Defense Policy Review Initiative/Guam Realignment funds. Contract funds are military construction, defense medical.

"This is a very significant and historic event," said Capt. Kevin Haws, commanding officer, U.S. Naval Hospital Guam. "The new hospital will provide a facility that meets the medical needs of our patient population today and in the future. It will provide easy access and the latest in inpatient and outpatient technology, and will promote and sustain a healthy force, ready to deploy when called upon."

The work to be performed includes the demolition of the existing naval hospital and various designated structures, and the reconstruction of the new replacement naval hospital. The work also includes the expansion of the central utility plant building, new boilers, emergency generator, required ancillary equipment and utility service lines from the plant to the new hospital building.

The work will be phased so the existing hospital remains operational during construction, and the new hospital will be operational before demolition.

Construction is expected to be completed by October 2014. The exact amount of the contract is $158,132,500, and it was competitively procured via the Navy Electronic Commerce Online website with five proposals received. ***(NAVFAC)***

Continental stockholders approve merger

» Merger currently expected to close by Oct. 1

HOUSTON—Continental Airlines said yesterday that its stockholders voted overwhelmingly to approve the merger with United Air Lines at a special meeting held in Houston, Texas. More than 98 percent of the votes cast and 75 percent of shares outstanding were voted in favor of the transaction.

"We are grateful for our stockholders' strong vote of confidence in this merger," said Jeff Smisek, Continental's chairman, president and chief executive officer. "In approving the transaction, our stockholders recognized the value of bringing together Continental and United to create a platform for increased profitability and sustainable long-term value."

Stockholders of UAL Corp. also voted to approve the merger yesterday at a meeting held in Chicago, Illinois.

Continental and United announced an all-stock merger of equals on May 3, 2010. The companies have received clearance on the proposed merger from the United States Department of Justice and the European Commission. The merger is currently expected to close by Oct. 1, 2010.

Continental Airlines is the world's fifth largest airline. ***(PR)***

Judge mulls delaying merger of United, Continental

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal judge is considering whether to delay the merger of Continental Airlines Inc. and United Airlines Inc. while an antitrust lawsuit is pending.

San Francisco lawyer Joseph Alioto filed a lawsuit in June on behalf of 49 air travelers who allege the merger will lead to increased prices from decreased competition.

Alioto on Friday asked U.S District Court Judge Richard Seeborg to stop the merger until a jury can consider the lawsuit.

A lawyer for the airlines, Katherine Forrest, argued against a delay. She told the judge the two companies planned to complete the merger Oct. 1.

Shareholders of both companies overwhelmingly approved the deal Friday, and the U.S. Department of Justice last month gave its approval.

The judge said he will rule before Oct. 1.

Bullying in the workplace

HR MATTERS

By FRANK GIBSON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, has been a resident of the CNMI for almost 15 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office.

Question: My boss seems to never be happy with anything I do. She is always yelling at me and does it in front of the other employees. I've stayed home sick a couple of days because I just don't feel like being treated this way. What can I do?

Answer: It's hard to imagine valid reasons for a boss to yell at an employee, but it does happen more often than you would think—even in today's world where most employees have an attorney's telephone number memorized. Common sense and good management says that a manager or supervisor shouldn't yell at an employee, even if he or she is unhappy with an employee's work and, of course, should never humiliate an employee in front of others.

That said, first do an honest self-assessment and determine if there is reason for the boss to be unhappy with your performance. Even if there is, it doesn't justify bullying. Yes, yelling, public humiliation and intimidation are forms of bullying. Not only is it a display of poor management and communication skills, bullying can, in some cases, be an unlawful form of harassment.

After you have performed your self-critique, arrange to meet with your boss. Morning is probably the best time, before the day's stresses and frustrations build up. The meeting should be in a private office with just the two of you present. If you are fearful to the point where you cannot do this, then arrange an appointment with the Human Resource Office. Discuss the problem with HRO and ask them to help you resolve it.

If you can and do arrange the meeting, tell the boss, non-argumentatively, that you want to discuss why she appears to be unhappy with you and/or your work. Listen to what she has to say. If you find that she does have reason to be critical, ask and find out what you can do to correct the problems. If you don't agree with the reasons she gives, state your side in a non-antagonistic, not overly-defensive manner. Also tell her that if she feels a need in the future to criticize you or your work, you would appreciate it if she would do it in private, not in front of the other staff. Ideally, the two of you will come to an agreement as to mutual expectations of performance and what needs to be done to repair the working relationship and avoid future incidents of public criticism or unpleasantness.

Remember, also, that the boss is the boss and may want things done her way, even though you may feel a different way is better. If you can't convince the boss otherwise, and her way isn't illegal, immoral, dangerous, unethical or contrary to company policy, that's probably the way you should do it if you plan to continue working there.

If the meeting falls apart into an argument, and you and your supervisor cannot communicate, use your company's grievance procedure. Take the problem either to the next level of management or to the HRO and ask for their assistance in resolving the problem.

Coming back to the issue of bullying being harassment, review your honest assessment of why the problem is what it is. Does the boss treat you differently than other employees, or is she critical and publicly embarrassing to all or to others? Does she treat the women differently than the men? Does she treat one ethnicity different than others? Does she treat older employees differently than younger ones? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, than discrimination may be occurring and if this treatment results in your ability to perform your job being affected, then unlawful harassment may be taking place. Use your complaint procedure. Talk with your EEO representative or the HRO.

However, if the boss treats everyone equally bad, regardless of race, sex, age or any of the protected categories, if she appears to have a problem with the world in general, maybe due to problems with home life, love life or no-life, it is probably a management problem and not a discrimination problem. Another very real possibility could be that the boss, whether we're talking about supervisor or manager, may never have received management training and doesn't have those important management and communication skills that are necessary in today's workplace. This would certainly be a management problem that should get immediate attention.

Whatever the reason, you can still talk with the HRO about it as the poor management-employee relationship and communication are certainly counterproductive to the best interests of the company.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only. Readers should obtain professional advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding human resource issues to hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com or editor@saipantribune.com.

Nation

US woman held in Iran says she's not a spy

By KAREN MATTHEWS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—An American woman who was held in Iran for more than 13 months and accused of espionage said Sunday she and two men detained with her never spied or committed any crime, calling their arrest "a huge misunderstanding."

Discussing her experience at the most length since her release Tuesday, Sarah Shourd underscored her gratitude at being released but said she felt only "one-third free" because her fiance, Shane Bauer, and their friend Josh Fattal remain in Tehran's notorious Evin Prison.

"This is not the time to celebrate," Shourd, 32, said at a New York news conference. "The only thing that enabled me to cross the gulf from prison to freedom alone was the knowledge that Shane and Josh wanted with all their hearts for my suffering to end."

Shourd

Meanwhile, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad arrived in New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly. He later met with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to discuss developments in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East and efforts to resolve the dispute over Iran's nuclear program.

Ahmadinejad told The Associated Press, "We're very glad that that lady was released. (Due) to the humanitarian perspective the Islamic Republic chose to adopt on the subject, she was released on bail. And we hope that the other two will soon be able to prove and provide evidence to the court that they had no ill intention in crossing the border, so that their release can also be secured."

Tying the case to Iran's assertion that some of its citizens are being held unjustly in the United States, he said, "It certainly does not give us joy when we see people in prison, wherever in the world that may be, and even when we think of prisoners here."

Composed but occasionally pausing when her voice wavered with emotion, Shourd thanked Iranians and Ahmadinejad in a carefully scripted return that spoke to the continuing delicacy of her situation.

3 children found shot dead in Texas apartment

HOUSTON (AP)—Three children were found shot dead in their beds Sunday at a suburban Houston apartment building, and their father was charged with their murders after surviving an apparent suicide attempt, authorities said.

Muhammed Goher, 47, was charged with three counts of capital murder in the Sunday morning shootings, said Harris County Sheriff's Deputy Jamie Wagner.

Goher was in stable condition Sunday afternoon at Ben Taub Hospital in Houston, where he was being treated for what investigators say was a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his head, Wagner said. A sheriff's office statement said he was expected to survive.

Goher's two daughters, ages 14 and 7, and a 12-year-old son were killed in the shootings, which were reported around 9:45 a.m. The apartment is attached to a convenience store where Goher worked, about three miles south of Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport.

Goher is divorced from the children's mother, Norma Goher, but had court-ordered visitation rights, according to the statement.

Those rights were to be the subject of a Sept. 27 court hearing in Houston. However, Goher received the children Friday afternoon and was to have returned them to their mother Sunday afternoon, authorities said.

A female baby-sitter reported seeing Goher with a handgun and fled the apartment before hearing a gunshot, according to the statement.

Neighbors did not return telephone messages left Sunday by The Associated Press.

One neighbor, Julio Rodriguez, told the Houston Chronicle that he dialed 911 after he saw a woman screaming when she left the apartment at the time of the shooting.

"I heard her screaming, "Gun! Gun! Shoot! Shoot!' I got scared because I knew there were kids in there," he said.

Muhommad Riaz, Goher's co-worker at a convenience store near his apartment building, told the Chronicle that he had spoken with Goher Saturday. He found him to be upset over the upcoming court date and the fear of losing his visitation rights, Riaz said.

Goher said "everyone was lying" about him having a violent temper, Riaz told the newspaper.

Leader of US religious sect hospitalized

AP

Reyna Chicas, the leader of a breakaway religious sect, is taken in for questioning after her group was located by Los Angeles County Sheriffs officers at Jackie Robinson Park, outside Palmdale in Littlerock, Calif., Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010.

PALMDALE, California (AP)—The leader of an Hispanic breakaway religious sect was hospitalized Sunday for a mental evaluation, after she and 12 other members of her group went missing and left behind evidence that they were awaiting the rapture or some catastrophic event.

Reyna Marisol Chicas was placed under a 72-hour mandatory hold after it was determined she was not able to care for herself or others, said Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Thomas Kim.

Chicas gave investigators a false name and was rambling during questioning, Kim said. She told deputies she had no children, even though her two kids were with her.

Ending a frantic search, deputies found Chicas the 13 just before noon at Jackie Robinson Park near Palmdale after getting a tip from a local resident, said sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore. He said all members are safe.

Officers had been searching a wide swath of Southern California since Saturday after family members found letters saying the group was awaiting an apocalyptic event and would soon see Jesus and their dead relatives in heaven.

The group of El Salvadoran immigrants described as "cult-like" by sheriff's officials, was led by Chicas, a 32-year-old woman from Palmdale in northeast Los Angeles County, sheriff's Captain Mike Parker said.

Members left behind mobile phones, identifications, deeds to property, and letters indicating they were awaiting the Rapture.

The items came from a purse that a member of the group had left with her husband Saturday and asked him to pray over. He eventually looked inside and he and another member's husband called authorities.

"These letters read like a will and testament. They read like goodbye letters," said Whitmore. "Coupled with the two husbands that come in and tell us 'Our wives are missing, we believe they are under the spell of this lady,'" deputies had no choice but to treat the matter seriously, he said.

Two women from the group called fears for their well-being a misunderstanding.

"That's our husband. When you go somewhere overnight, you don't know what's going to happen to you right?" Alma Miranda Pleitez told KNX radio at the park shortly after she was found. "So you leave your information to your husband."

Another member—Martha Clavel—told the radio station "I guess it was a misunderstanding, and I'm sorry about that."

Whitmore said he didn't know if the members had done anything like this before.

For deaf, wireless devices are a new portal to world

AP

In this Aug. 12, 2010 image made from video, Matt Kochie, who is deaf and works at the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind, sends a text message in this image taken from a video shot in Talladega, Ala. Kochie has been texting his entire adult life and has a hard time imagining a day without it.

By JAY REEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TALLADEGA, Alabama (AP)—Quietly over the last decade, phones that make text messaging easy have changed life profoundly for millions of deaf people.

Gone are the days of a deaf person driving to someone's house just to see if they are home. Wives text their deaf husbands in the basement, just as a hearing wife might yell down the stairs. Deaf teens blend in with the mall crowd since they're constantly texting, like everyone else in high school.

Visit the Alabama School for the Deaf, and it's impossible to miss the signs of a revolution that many hearing people simply never noticed. Most everyone at the school in Talladega has at least one handheld texting device, and some have two. At lunch, deaf diners order burgers and fries by text: Punch in the order and show it at the counter.

For the first time, a generation of deaf people can communicate with the world on its terms, using cell phones, BlackBerrys or iPhones, of which some 260 million are in use in the United States.

Matt Kochie, who is deaf, has been texting his entire adult life and has a hard time imagining a day without it.

"We'd have to go back to pen and paper," said Kochie, 29, a teacher at the school. "We'd have to write back and forth to communicate."

Without his handheld, Walter Ripley said he would be back to relying on others for even basic communication. And texting is less work, said Ripley, 54.

"I don't have to depend on hearing people. It makes me a lot more independent. I don't have to ask people to call for me. Asking for people to call can be very frustrating," said Ripley, the school's athletic director.

Kochie and Ripley both used sign language and interpreters during interviews, and deaf people still generally favor signing when talking face-to-face. It's faster and more expressive than pecking out letters on a tiny keyboard.

For generations, deaf people communicated mainly by sign language, gesturing, lip-reading and writing. Telephone lines then allowed for TTY machines that deaf people could use to send printed messages electronically.

"We had one in our house for all of us when I was a teenager, and we would have a line to use it," said Ripley, whose parents and siblings were also deaf.

Machines linked to landlines are still used, as are services involving operators who interpret for the deaf during phone conversations, plus e-mail and video phone calls.

Asia

Typhoon knocks out power, transportation in Taiwan

BY DEBBY WU
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A powerful typhoon made landfall in eastern China on Monday after ripping into Taiwan, flooding the southern part of the island, crippling transportation and shutting off power as thousands of residents fled mountainous areas prone to landslides.

Typhoon Fanapi was the first major storm to strike the island this year and the 11th typhoon to hit China. It landed in Fujian province at 7 a.m., according to the flood control headquarters, after crossing Taiwan on Sunday with peak winds of 102 mph (162 kph).

Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said as much as 44 inches (112 centimeters) of rain had been dumped in southern Taiwan by early Monday—with more to come. TV images showed water submerging streets and first floors of buildings.

Military vehicles entered inundated areas to help trapped residents in the southern part of the island, including Taiwan's second largest city Kaohsiung, late Sunday.

Schools and offices were closed in southern Taiwan on Monday.

Officials evacuated 10,000 residents from remote areas vulnerable to landslides, half of them in the southern part of the island, according to Taiwan's Central Emergency Operation Center.

The center also said 107 people were injured. Some were cut by broken glass and others hurt when they fell off motorcycles in strong winds.

Landslides caused by torrential rains are traditionally the greatest danger the typhoons bring to this island of 23 million people, which is riven by a series of tall mountains and narrow valleys dotted with hundreds of isolated farming communities.

Taiwan's China Airlines suspended all international departures from Kaohsiung. All of Taiwan's domestic air and rail service was halted.

Officials said seven inter-county roads in central and southern Taiwan were closed because of safety concerns, and another 18 were blocked.

Taiwan's government has deployed thousands of emergency workers and military personnel throughout the island to try to mitigate damage, mindful of the estimated 700 deaths caused by Typhoon Morakot last year.

Following that disaster, President Ma Ying-jeou's approval rating collapsed, and he was forced to replace many of his senior ministers.

The Taiwan Power Company said in a statement 170,000 Taiwanese households had lost electricity as of Sunday morning.

In eastern China, the Fujian provincial water resources department said 186,700 people had been evacuated.

AP

Taiwanese people walk against powerful gusts of wind generated by typhoon Fanapi, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010, in Taipei, Taiwan.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Gunmen fire at tourist bus in Delhi, wounding 2

NEW DELHI (AP)—Two gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire at tourists near one of India's biggest mosques, wounding two Taiwanese and raising concerns about security less than two weeks before an international sporting event in the Indian capital. The gunmen shot randomly at the tourists as they were about to board a bus parked near the Jama Masjid mosque, police spokesman Rajan Bhagat said. The 17th century mosque is a popular tourist destination in the heart of the city. Police launched a massive search for the gunmen and issued a security alert across the Indian capital. Hours later, the BBC's Hindi language service said it received an e-mail purportedly from the Indian Mujahideen, an Islamic militant group, threatening to attack the upcoming Commonwealth Games. Police cautioned that the e-mail and Sunday's attack could be unrelated. "We are investigating the attack on the tourists from all angles," said Karnail Singh, a joint commissioner of police.

Nations pledge more in Pakistan flood aid

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Nations and groups supporting Pakistan's democratic advances promised Sunday to give the country millions of dollars more in flood aid, but some insisted that Pakistan itself must lead the way on recovery and account publicly for all funds. The new pledges came two days after the U.N. made its largest disaster appeal ever, asking the world's governments to raise a total of $2 billion for Pakistani flood victims. The floods have killed more than 1,700 people and damaged or destroyed nearly 1.9 homes since the raging waters began spreading across the country six weeks ago. Food, shelter and other emergency aid is still being supplied to displaced people in areas that remain under water. Most of the 6 million people the U.N. food agency is trying to feed were agricultural workers who lost their crops and seeds to replant, Sheeran said. Markets were washed away, and farm trade among thousands of villages halted.

US missile strike kills 5 militants in Pakistan

MIR ALI, Pakistan (AP)—A suspected U.S. drone fired three missiles at a house in northwestern Pakistan, killing five alleged militants in the 14th such attack this month—the most intense barrage since the airstrikes began in 2004. The house belonged to a local militant and was located in Datta Khel, a town in the North Waziristan tribal area that is controlled by insurgents who regularly launch cross-border attacks against NATO troops in Afghanistan, said intelligence officials on condition of anonymity Sunday because they were not authorized to speak with the media. The exact identities of the dead militants were not known. U.S. and Pakistani intelligence officials have said most of this month's strikes have targeted forces led by Jalaluddin Haqqani, a commander who was once supported by Pakistan and the U.S. during the war against the Soviets in Afghanistan. Haqqani has since turned against the U.S., and American military officials have said his network presents the greatest threat to foreign forces in Afghanistan.

Moderate earthquake hits off eastern Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau says a moderate 5.2-magnitude earthquake has struck off the eastern coast of the island. No casualties, damage, or a tsunami were immediately reported. The bureau says the quake hit at 11:17 a.m. Monday (0317 GMT) and it was centered 22 miles (35 kilometers) from the county of Hualien, 85 miles (135 kilometers) southeast of the capital Taipei. Earthquakes frequently rattle Taiwan but most are minor and cause little or no damage. However, a 7.6-magnitude earthquake in central Taiwan in 1999 killed more than 2,300 people.

Report: Train collision kills 8 in central India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A freight train slammed into a stationary passenger locomotive at a railway station amid heavy rain and poor visibility early Monday in central India, killing at least eight people, news reports said.

The collision occurred at the Bhaderwah rail station, 235 miles (375 kilometers) south of the Indian capital New Delhi, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

The CNN-IBN television news channel reported 50 passengers were injured in the collision.

Other details were not immediately available. Officials could not be immediately reached at the accident site.

The cause of the collision was not immediately known.

Accidents are relatively common on India's sprawling rail network, which is one of the world's largest but lacks modern signaling and communication systems. Most crashes are blamed on poor maintenance and human error.

In July, 63 people were killed after a train smashed into another locomotive at a rail station in West Bengal state.

A passenger train derailed and was hit by a cargo train in May, killing 145 people in West Bengal state. Authorities blamed sabotage by Maoist rebels for that crash.

At least 23 soldiers killed in Tajikistan ambush

By OLGA TUTUBALINA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP)—At least 23 soldiers were killed in Tajikistan after a convoy was ambushed by heavily armed Islamic militants - a devastating blow that will shake this impoverished nation lying on Afghanistan's poorly secured northern border.

The military convoy was heading for eastern Rasht district, an area near the border with Afghanistan, when it was attacked in a valley Sunday, Defense Ministry spokesman Faridun Makhmadaliyev said Monday.

The attackers were led by Mullo Abdullo, a radical Islamic commander who came to prominence during the civil war that devastated this former Soviet republic in the 1990s, Makhmadaliyev said.

Abdullo fled to Afghanistan after the end of the civil war in 1997, but he is believed to have returned to his native country some time last year in an effort to overthrow the government led by President Emomali Rakhmon.

Many soldiers were seriously wounded and evacuated for treatment after Sunday's ambush, Makhmadaliyev said.

The attack comes amid rising tension following a string of terrorist blasts and a large-scale prison escapes by Islamist insurgents and government opponents.

The gunmen are believed to have included citizens from Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well fighters from the volatile southern Russian region of Chechnya, Makhmadaliyev said.

Japan urges calm after China severs contacts

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—Japan urged China to remain calm and not inflame their diplomatic spat further Monday after Beijing severed high-level contacts over the detention of a Chinese fishing boat captain near disputed islands.

China's rare move late Sunday pushed already-tense relations to a new low, and showed Beijing's willingness to play hardball with its Asian rival on issues of territorial integrity, which include sparring with Japan over natural gas fields in the East China Sea.

The severing of high-level government contacts came after anti-Japanese protests were held across China on the anniversary of the start of a Japanese invasion of China in 1931, which has historically cast a shadow over ties between the world's second- and third-largest economies.

The latest dispute was sparked when a Chinese fishing vessel collided with two Japanese coast guard ships on Sept. 7 near islands in the East China Sea - called Senkaku by Japan and known as Diaoyu or Diaoyutai in Chinese and claimed by both countries.

The 14 Chinese crew were released last week, but the captain's detention for further questioning - pending a decision about whether to press charges - has inflamed ever-present anti-Japanese sentiment in China.

In Tokyo, a Japanese spokesman said the government was assessing the situation but it had not yet been officially informed of the severing of ties. Noriyuki Shikata, spokesman for Prime Minister Naoto Kan, told The Associated Press if China did make such a decision, "it is truly regrettable."

World

Igor passes near Bermuda as Category 1 hurricane

By JASON BRONIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HAMILTON, Bermuda (AP)—Fierce waves pounded Bermuda's shores and strained yacht moorings late Sunday as winds tore at trees and signs while a weakened Hurricane Igor passed just west of the wealthy British enclave.

Bermudians stayed battened down in their homes in a pelting rain to wait out Igor, which was barely a Category 1 hurricane. Its sustained winds were clocked at 75 mph (120 kph) as Igor neared the island, although a gust of 93 mph was reported, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

The wind whipsawed trees and power poles, knocking out electricity in many parts of the island. But there were no early reports of major damage.

"We're certainly getting our money's worth in drama," lawyer James Dodi said while standing outside a hotel in downtown Hamilton watching Igor's winds whip through palm trees and howl around buildings.

Dodi, 43, a native of Toronto who moved from Canada six years ago, left his Hamilton home and took refuge at the hotel, where he hoped the power would hold out through the storm.

Some storm-seasoned islanders ventured outside during the day to gawk as the hurricane force winds that hit by midday drove 15-foot (5-meter) surf onto shore or to triple-tie the moorings of their boats even as the government warned people to stay indoors.

Flooding was reported in low-lying areas, while streets in downtown Hamilton, the capital, were covered in several inches of water and littered with tree branches and other debris.

Igor's eye passed about 40 miles west of Bermuda before midnight, the U.S. hurricane center said. But even the near-miss was a problem, since hurricane-force winds extended up to 90 miles (150 kilometers) from the eye.

AP
A boat is swamped with water at Flatts Inlet in Smith's parish while Hurricane Igor comes ashore in Bermuda, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010.

The storm was expected to veer northeast—away from the United States—after passing Bermuda. But forecasters said it would continue causing high surf and strong rip currents along the U.S. eastern seaboard.

Most tourists hopped on flights home before the airport closed Saturday afternoon, but Elaine and Brian LaFleur of New Bedford, Massachusetts, said they actually changed the date of their flight so they would make it to Bermuda in advance of Igor. They wanted a new experience for their 28th trip to the island.

"We've done everything else on this island, but we've never experienced a hurricane," said Elaine LaFleur, 62.

The couple's original itinerary had them arriving Sunday but they flew in Friday.

Brian LeFleur, 66, said the couple was staying busy indoors playing games on their iPad. He had hoped to watch Sunday football but the cable television at their hotel in downtown Hamilton lost its signal.

Bermuda's power utility reported that roughly 19,500 customers were without electricity by Sunday evening on the British territory of 68,000 inhabitants.

Jah Simmons, 25, and Gregory Wilson, 36, headed into downtown Hamilton after their homes lost power.

Both said they were relieved that the storm was not stronger. "It's a blessing in my mind," Simmons said.

Igor lost strength and was downgraded from a Category 2 hurricane before dawn Sunday, raising optimism that Bermuda would be spared major damage.

"We prayed that the storm would be downgraded, and it looks like our prayers have been answered," said Fred Swan, a 52-year-old teacher.

As the hurricane bore down, most islanders hunkered down in their homes and listened to the howling winds and cracking thunder outside.

School principal Marion Dyer, 47, said she holed up with her 8-year-old daughter and two others after losing power around dawn, when Igor's outer bands began severely whipping Bermuda.

"Now and again we get bursts of wild wind which sends the rain in all directions," Dyer wrote in an e-mail to an AP reporter. "We have heard several rolls of thunder which are becoming more frequent."

Premier Ewart Brown said islanders "have been forced to recognize that the ocean is not so vast and Bermuda not so unique as to be separated from the awesome power of nature."

Ahmadinejad says future is Iran's

By JOHN DANISZEWSKI and EDITH M. LEDERER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

NEW YORK (AP)—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Sunday that "the future belongs to Iran," and challenged the United States to accept that his country has a major role in the world.

The comments came in an hourlong interview with The Associated Press on the first day of his visit to the United States to attend the annual General Assembly of the United Nations this week.

Ahmadinejad

He insisted that his government does not want an atomic bomb - something he has said in the past - and that Iran is only seeking peace and a nuclear-weapons-free world. He repeatedly sidestepped questions on when Iran would resume talks on its disputed nuclear program, and he said anti-nuclear sanctions against his government would have no effect.

Appearing calm and self-assured on his seventh trip to the United States, the Iranian president showed every sign of being in command of himself and prepared to deflect questions about his government's harsh suppression of opposition forces after last year's disputed election that returned him to a second term.

"The United States' administrations ... must recognize that Iran is a big power," he said. "Having said that, we consider ourselves to be a human force and a cultural power and hence a friend of other nations. We have never sought to dominate others or to violate the rights of any other country.

"Those who insist on having hostilities with us, kill and destroy the option of friendship with us in the future, which is unfortunate because it is clear the future belongs to Iran and that enmities will be fruitless."

Over the years, Ahmadinejad has become more articulate and polished. He wore a gray pinstriped suit and a pinstriped white shirt, open with no tie, for the interview, conducted in an East Side hotel not far from the United Nations.

A few blocks away, dozens of protesters demonstrated with tape across their mouths to symbolize what they consider to be the oppressive nature of the Iranian government. The nonprofit Israeli education group, Stand With Us, organized the rally, one of many expected outside the United Nations and elsewhere in the city before Ahmadinejad leaves Friday.

In the interview in a room crowded with aides, bodyguards and Iranian journalists, the Iranian leader projected an air of innocence, saying his country's quest to process ever greater amounts of uranium is reasonable for its expanding civilian power program, omitting that the watchdog United Nations agency involved has found Iran keeping secrets from its investigators on several occasions, including secret research sites.

He also did not acknowledge that the leaders of the political opposition in Iran have been harassed and that government opponents risk violence and arrest if they try to assemble. He did allow that there have been some judicial "mistakes."

Ahmadinejad argued that the opposition Green Movement, which has largely been forced underground, continues to enjoys rights in Iran but said that in the end it must respect "majority rule." He also disavowed any knowledge of the fate of a retired FBI employee, Robert Levinson, who vanished inside Iran in 2007, saying the trail will be followed up by a joint U.S.-Iranian committee.

Government opponents "have their activities that are ongoing and they also express their views publicly. They have several parties, as well as several newspapers, and many newspapers and publications. And so there are really no restrictions of such nature," the president said.

He did not mention that many newspapers have been closed down and that prominent opposition figures were put in prison and then tried after tens of thousands of Iranians took to the streets claiming that the election that put him back in power in 2010 was fraudulent and stolen.

Germany: 4 die after blast, shooting

By MELISSA EDDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BERLIN (AP)—Four people died and a policeman was seriously wounded in a town in southwestern Germany on Sunday, after an explosion in an apartment building and a shooting in the neighboring hospital that authorities believe are linked, a prosecutor said.

Two people were found dead in an apartment building that burst into flames after an explosion Sunday afternoon, Loerrach prosecutor Dieter Inhofer told ZDF public television.

Another woman, allegedly armed with a weapon, was seen running from the blast into the neighboring St. Elisabeth hospital, where she reportedly opened fire, killing a member of the hospital staff, Inhofer said.

The woman then turned her gun on officers responding to the shooting and was killed in an exchange of gunfire, Inhofer said. One police officer was seriously wounded, Inhofer said, but authorities believe there were no other victims in the hospital.

"There was a very heavy exchange of gunfire in the hospital that had the potential to be very dangerous, but based on what we know right now ... no one else was injured," Inhofer said.

Police in the town of Loerrach, near the Swiss and French borders, are investigating. Authorities are still searching for a motive for the shooting.

WORLD BRIEFS

Peru cops take power plant back from coca growers

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Hundreds of coca growers briefly seized control of a power plant in Peru's interior Sunday, cutting off electricity to the estimated 430,000 people who live in Ucayali province. Police later moved in, arresting 120 people and freeing 30 employees who got the power on again at the natural gas-fired power plant in Aguaytia, a city about 300 miles (490 kilometers) northeast of Lima. But authorities said Sunday that coca growers were still blocking a main highway with dozens of disabled buses and trucks. The so-called "cocaleros" have been protesting for more than a week against government eradication of their crop, which is the base for making cocaine. Peru is the world's No. 2 coca producer after Colombia.

Former Israeli premier details failed peace offer

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Israel's former premier gave his most detailed description yet of his 2008 peace offer to the Palestinians, saying in a lecture Sunday that if the current talks are to succeed, the agreement would have to resemble the plan the Palestinians turned down two years ago. The Palestinians deemed Ehud Olmert's offer insufficient at the time, but wanted the more hawkish premier who replaced him, Benjamin Netanyahu, to use it as a starting point for negotiations. Instead, Netanyahu has taken it off the table. Also Sunday, Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman proposed trading sections of Israel where its Arab citizens live for West Bank Jewish settlements as part of any peace deal. Olmert's statements in Tel Aviv were part of a rare political speech for the former prime minister, who resigned last year under a wave of corruption charges.

Focus

AP

Ronald Oba, left center, George Nakasato, right center, William Thompson, right, were members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team are shown here at a memorial which is located at the 442nd Veteran's Club in Honolulu Monday, Aug. 30, 2010.

House to vote on medal for 'Go for broke' veterans

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HONOLULU (AP)—Ronald Oba grew up saluting the U.S. flag and saying the Pledge of Allegiance in school, like millions of other American boys.

But he was labeled an "enemy alien" after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, because his ancestors came from the same land as the attacking planes.

To prove his loyalty, Oba joined the Army as soon as President Franklin D. Roosevelt allowed Japanese-Americans to enlist. His segregated unit—the 442nd Regimental Combat Team—soon became the most highly decorated military unit in U.S. history for its size and length of service.

This month, Congress is expected to award its highest honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, to Oba and others who fought, even as their countrymen viewed them with suspicion and distrust. Many wore the uniform while their families spent the war in detention camps back home.

The honorees would include some 6,000 Japanese-Americans who served as translators and interpreters against Japan, often on the front lines with Marines and soldiers fighting from island to island across the Pacific.

The elite medal has been given selectively since 1776, when George Washington was awarded the first. Other honorees include the Wright Brothers, Thomas Edison, Rosa Parks and the Dalai Lama. Congress awarded the medal to the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II, the first group of black fighter pilots, in 2006.

Oba is grateful, saying the medal would spread awareness about the veterans.

"We appreciate our legacy being carried on," Oba, now 87, said in an interview at the Honolulu clubhouse for 442nd veterans. "Finally, they're recognizing our contribution during World War II."

Just outside the clubhouse is a memorial listing the names of nearly 800 Japanese-American soldiers killed in action. A plaque spells out the unit's motto—"Go for broke"—a Pidgin, or Hawaii Creole English, expression meaning "give it your all."

A large granite map shows where the 442nd, which absorbed the 100th Battalion during the war, pushed its way through Italy and France. The area covers the Vosges Mountains, where the unit suffered 800 casualties maneuvering through fog and dense forest against hidden German machine guns to rescue the trapped "Lost Battalion" of the nearly all-Texan 36th Division.

Sen. Daniel Inouye, who took a break from college to enlist and lost his right arm fighting in Italy, said he didn't help draft the bill because he would be honored by it.

But the Hawaii Democrat said the medal would give the veterans "a jolt of joy."

> *I just hope that Congress will pass it in time so that some of us may look upon and reflect and say that it was all worth it.*

"Keep in mind, there were some who volunteered from behind barbed wires. We in Hawaii volunteered knowing that we were 'enemy aliens.' And that's not easy," Inouye said.

The senator hopes the award will come soon because the youngest unit members are in the their mid-80s and only about a third are still alive.

"I just hope that Congress will pass it in time so that some of us may look upon and reflect and say that it was all worth it," said Inouye, who turned 86 this month and is seeking re-election.

The House is expected to vote on the measure as early as this week. The Senate unanimously passed the bill last month.

Harold Fudenna, a Military Intelligence Service translator who served while his parents were at an internment camp, died before he could be honored.

The California native was listening to radio communications in New Guinea in 1943 when he intercepted a Japanese message specifying the time Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto—the architect of the attack on Pearl Harbor—would be flying to inspect his troops.

Fudenna's translation allowed the U.S. to shoot down Yamamoto's plane, dealing a severe blow to Japanese morale. Gen. Douglas MacArthur called the feat "one of the singularly most significant actions of the Pacific War."

Keith Fudenna said his father, who died in 1993 at the age of 75, would be pleased by the medal but would deflect any honors directed at him personally. The elder Fudenna always said he was only doing his duty.

"He did not think that what he did was that big of a thing, and there were many others who were more courageous and their stories should be highlighted more than his," said Keith Fudenna, who is an Alameda County Superior Court judge in California.

Ted Tsukiyama, who trained with the 442nd before he was selected to be a Military Intelligence Service translator, cites a story from the beginning of the war to illustrate the difficulties Japanese-Americans faced when so many questioned their loyalty.

A Hawaiian and a Japanese-American soldier in the Hawaii Territorial Guard were manning a gun pit on Oahu shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, when the Hawaiian turned to his comrade.

"Eh, if dey come, who you going shoot? Dem or me?" he asked, in Pidgin. The Japanese-American replied, "Who you t'ink, stupid? Me j'us as good American as you!"

Tsukiyama, 89, said many Japanese-Americans enlisted to prove the same point.

"By the time these black bags started to come back from Europe with Japanese names on them, nobody asked the question 'Who you going shoot?' anymore," said Tsukiyama.

The soldiers proved, as Roosevelt said when he announced the formation of the 442nd, that being American is a matter of the "mind and heart" and not race or ancestry, he said.

Overdrive

NEW, USED, BIG, SMALL

Narrow choices for teen's first car

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

School's back in session. And for many parents, it's decision time: Do you continue driving your teenager or college student wherever they need to go or provide some wheels of their own?

Bottom line: If you, and they, are in the market for a first car, there are plenty of decisions to make: New or used? Big or small? Here are some talking points to help you along.

THE FAMILY CAR

You may already have the best first car. It's a tradition, and often a good one, for a teen to inherit the family car. It's a known quantity—you are familiar with its repair history—and there's a good chance your teen is familiar with it, because it may be the car in which he or she learned how to drive. The car is also known to your insurance agent and carrier.

In fact, before you make any decision on a first car for a teen, check insurance prices. It could be far cheaper to assign a current car to your teen than to bring a new vehicle into the fold. And while the family car may not be the first choice for your teen, few will squawk when given the choice of a family car, or a big yellow bus.

NEW OR USED?

If the family car option is off the table, a used vehicle could be a good option. When word gets out you are looking, friends or family members may offer up a suitable vehicle, which gives you a reliable source to explain the car's history.

If you opt for buying a used vehicle from a dealer or a private party, have a trusted mechanic look it over, and be sure the mechanic knows it would be a first car for a teen. Mechanics see a lot of vehicles, and their opinion regarding the suitability of a vehicle is valuable. Is it safe? Is it generally dependable? Are parts inexpensive? What are the weak links? Your last, and most important question for the mechanic: Is this a car you'd be willing to let your child drive?

There are also advantages to buying a new vehicle. You get a warranty, you know there are no skeletons in the car's closet—or trunk—and, perhaps most importantly, you'd likely be getting all the latest safety features, including side airbags, antilock brakes and electronic stability control. And you'd probably be getting some convenience features that have an impact on safety, such as Bluetooth, which helps allow for hands-free phone conversations.

With some brands, you'd have the option of features that target teen drivers, such as Ford's MyKey, which can limit the vehicle's top speed and car-audio volume, sound a "speed alert" chime at 45, 55 and 65 mph, and can mute the audio system until seat belts are fastened.

BIG OR SMALL?

Fuel economy tends to favor a smaller car, but some larger vehicles, such as the Chevrolet Impala, get surprisingly good mileage. If you are opting for an older used car, a larger vehicle may have a safety advantage. Small, inexpensive cars were typically the last to get the latest safety innovations. In addition, the amount of metal you surround your child with, while no guarantee of safety, will help provide you some peace of mind. If you are considering a newer used car—less than, say, 4 years old—there's a good chance you can find one with the newer safety features.

ONLINE COMPARISONS

You'll find plenty of help online regarding a first car, including specific recommendations. Edmunds.com and Cars.com have features on teen-suitable vehicles, and Kelly Blue Book (kbb.com) recently released its list of top 10 back-to-school cars, a mix of new and used vehicles. In order, Kelly recommends: 2006 Honda Civic, 2011 Ford Fiesta, 2010 Mazda3, 2008 Pontiac Vibe, 2010 Honda Fit, 2005 Saab 9-2X, 2010 Kia Soul, 2006 Ford Crown Victoria, 2008 Suzuki SX4 hatchback and 2011 Chevrolet Cruze.

Consumer Reports likes the 2008-2010 Hyundai Elantra SE, the 2007 and newer Mazda3, the 2008 and newer Scion xB, the 2004 and newer Acura TSX, the 2008 and newer Honda Accord, the 2007 and newer Kia Optima, the 2005 and newer Honda CR-V, and the 2008 and newer Nissan Rogue.

I'd favor a recent Honda Civic or Toyota Corolla for a used vehicle. I like those vehicles new, too, along with the Ford Fiesta, the Chevy Cruze, the Mazda3 and the Kia Soul. I asked a few colleagues for recommendations, as well—Mac Morrison, an editor at AutoWeek magazine, likes the Fiesta and the new Mazda2. "The engines aren't very powerful," he says, "but that's probably a plus for a new driver."

John Pearley Huffman, a contributing editor for Car and Driver and a correspondent for the New York Times, has another take: "I'd go with a used Ford Crown Victoria. The kid can also use it as a taxi cab (for friends), which may be the only employment available in this economy."

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel *in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.*

In Loving Memory

NICOLAS TAITANO SALAS

July 16, 1941 – September 15, 2010

Mass is celebrated each morning at 6 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Rosary is being prayed each evening at 7 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral

He will be dearly missed and remembered by his:

Loving wife: Trinidad (Tannie) Dela Cruz Salas

Children: Portia & Martin A. Camacho (Luis Joaquin, Steveni Manuel, Kendra Deana & Martin John, Jr.)
Joaquin & Carleen (Darrel & Sunshine/Kayli, Brian, Jaclyn, Christian & Darian Jacob)
Annette & Dean (Paul Nicolas & Sylvester Kovin)

Brothers and Sisters:
Maria & †Vicente P. De Los Reyes
Jesus & Fidelia S. Salas
Joaquin & Maria D. Salas
Antonio & Avelina S. Salas
†Juan & Bernadita R. Salas
Rosalia & Jesus T. Guerrero

In-Laws:
†Pedro C. & Delgadina B. Dela Cruz
Margarita (Abig) DlC & Jesus C. Leon Guerrero
Lourdes DlC & †Vicente A. Sanchez
Natividad (Da) C. Dela Cruz
Ramon C. & Sophia T. Dela Cruz
Anthony C. & Vanessa Dela Cruz

In his new life, Nick joins his
Parents: Juan Rabago & Carmen Taitano Salas
Parents-in-law: Joaquin D. Dela Cruz and Ana C. Dela Cruz

Brothers: Jose, Juan, Vicente Salas/Obed, Francisco & Ignacio Celis
Sisters: Dolores & Rosa Mundo

In-Laws: Vicente Delos Reyes, Magdalena T. Salas, Francisca S. Celis, Gloria M. Celis, Francisca Celis, Ramon Palacios, Margarita V. Salas

Pedro C. Dela Cruz & Vicente A. Sanchez

On Saturday, September 25, 2010, 7:30 a.m., his remains will leave CHC to Mt. Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian burial will be offered at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers
THANK YOU
Tannie Dela Cruz Salas and family

Can tires of different sizes affect differential?

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I bought my 2004 Suburban new, and it now has 100,000 miles on it. There is a howling in the front axle which I have been told is the front differential assembly. One garage wishes to replace this assembly for about $2,000. Another garage says the problem is that my one front tire is new and has a larger circumference than the rear tire matching it. He says all four tires have to be exactly the same circumference before the differential assembly can be replaced. This sounds strange to me; what say you?

ANSWER: The second garage is correct. With any four-wheel-drive or all-wheel-drive vehicle, it is critical for all four tires to be the same size and diameter. With one tire significantly larger or smaller, the differential on that end of the vehicle will think the vehicle is turning—one wheel rotating faster or slower than the other—while the rest of the drivetrain thinks the vehicle is traveling straight with all wheels rotating at the same speed. This can put enormous mechanical stress on driveline components and lead to premature failure of expensive components.

Start by inflating all tires to the same air pressure—35 pounds per square inch works well—then measure each tire. Put a chalk mark on the tire and the pavement at the bottom center of the tread contact patch, then roll the vehicle forward exactly one tire revolution and mark the pavement again. Measure the distance between each chalk mark with a tape measure. All four tires should be very close—a difference of a half-inch or less in circumference.

You didn't mention whether your vehicle is equipped with full-time AWD or automatic 4WD. If the noise is still there once all the tires are the same diameter and your vehicle has automatic 4WD, see if the noise goes away when locked into 2WD. If so, the front differential warrants a closer inspection.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver.

Life & Style

Known known: Rumsfeld's memoir coming in January

NEW YORK (AP)—The title and release date of Donald Rumsfeld's memoir are now known, or, as he might say, are now known knowns.

The book is called "Known and Unknown," and it's coming in January.

Rumsfeld, 78, will write about his childhood and long political career, starting as a Republican congressman from Illinois in the 1960s and then as secretary of defense under President Gerald Ford and President George W. Bush, the publisher, Sentinel, said in a statement Monday.

Rumsfeld's book was first announced in 2008. Rumsfeld received no advance and will donate all proceeds to veterans charities.

The statement from Sentinel, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), said Rumsfeld would include anecdotes about everyone from Elvis Presley to his close friend and ally Dick Cheney, the former vice president whose own memoir is scheduled for the spring.

Rumsfeld, a leading advocate of the war in Iraq, became increasingly controversial during his years in the Bush administration and resigned soon after the 2006 midterm elections, when Republicans lost control of Congress.

125 YouTube videos shortlisted for Guggenheims

Among the hundreds of thousands of videos uploaded daily to YouTube, surely a work of art is in there somewhere.

Such is the premise behind "YouTube Play: A Biennial of Creative Video," the first curated search for videos of a higher brow on the popular Google Inc.-owned website. From among more than 23,000 submissions from 91 countries, 125 videos were shortlisted for the inaugural biennial.

A curatorial team from the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York selected the videos, which will play at kiosks in Guggenheim museums in New York; Berlin; Bilbao, Spain, and Venice, Italy, beginning Monday.

A jury that includes filmmaker Darren Aronofsky and visual artist Takashi Murakami will whittle the results down further to about 20 videos. Those will be presented at the Guggenheim in New York on Oct. 21.

"It's become increasingly obvious that this kind of creative video is completely core to YouTube," said Anna Bateson, director of marketing for YouTube. "It's a fundamental part of what the site is doing, and yet it wasn't really being celebrated."

The chosen videos vary wildly, from well-known YouTube hits to little-seen works by students and amateurs.

More familiar selections include the OK Go music video "This Too Shall Pass," which features a Rube Goldberg apparatus, a complicated machine designed to perform a simple task, and the "Human Mirror" video, in which a subway car is lined by apparent twins mimicking each other's movements, by the comedy troupe Improv Everywhere.

Others are less heralded, like a jogging video by multimedia performer Jillian Mayer, in which rural video is projected against the urban landscape along her path.

Many videos utilize various forms of animation, particularly stop-motion animation. Joe Penna, known to most as MysteryGuitarMan, pieces together a classical guitar piece one shot—and one note—at a time.

Joan Young, associated curator of contemporary art at the Guggenheim, said the selected videos show the breadth of the materials on YouTube.

"We focused on works that really were conceived from the start for an online medium, so not necessarily works that were to be projected in a museum space or works that simply documented a performance," she said. "The idea really is working with the medium."

The videos are assembled at http://www.youtube.com/play. ***(AP)***

AP

Chilean writer Isabel Allende Llonas greets trapped miners and their relatives next to Chile's President Sebastian Pinera, second right, Chile's first lady Cecilia Morel, right, and Chile's lawmaker Isabel Allende Bussi outside the San Jose mine in Copiapo, Chile, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010.

The Isabel Allendes visit trapped miners' families

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile (AP)—The two Isabel Allendes joined Chile's president Sunday in a visit to the mine where a team of hundreds is working to rescue 33 men trapped a half-mile underground.

Author Isabel Allende, renowned for novels such as "The House of Spirits," was introduced by President Sebastian Pinera at a brief news conference as a great Chilean — "perhaps the best ambassador that our country has had."

Standing with them was her relative, Sen. Isabel Allende, a socialist who represents the Atacama region where the mine is located and who has been critical of Chile's mine-safety regulation.

"I come from California and I travel all over the world, and all the television screens of the world are showing the faces of those 33 miners and the name of Chile," said the author, who lives in the San Francisco Bay area town of San Rafael. She returned to Chile for bicentennial celebrations and accepted the president's invitation to visit the mine.

"I've received hundreds of messages from people praying for them, from people who send messages of support, positive energy and thanks to the people who are above ground, working day and night without rest to rescue their comrades," she added. "For me this is very emotional."

In Humble Gratitude

We, the family of the late

Linda Angui Ada

Wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our most painful time of sorrow. We especially would like to acknowledge the many thoughtful prayers, comfort, unending support and other considerate acts of grace extended to us. Your presence and prayers at the daily masses, nightly rosaries and most especially at the mass of Christian burial were very comforting. Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

Thank You yan Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Ginen I Familia

First Year Death Anniversary

Dr. Jose Lujan Chong

We, the family, humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Anniversary of the passing of our dearly beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather unto eternal life.

Mass of Intention will be offered every morning at 6:00 a.m. at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan, beginning September 16, 2010.

On the final day September 24, 2010 the Eucharist Mass Celebration will be offered at 6:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served immediately after.

†Dr. Jose Lujan Chong
July 25, 1924 – September 24, 2009

Your Thoughts and Prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank You, SiYu'us Ma'ase, Ghillisow

Children & Family

'Town' is talk of box office, opening with $23.8M

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP MOVIE CRITIC

LOS ANGELES (AP)— "The Town" is the talk of the box office, opening with $23.8 million to take the No. 1 spot.

The intense Warner Bros. drama about bank robbers in an insular section of Boston earned rave reviews. This is the second movie directed by Ben Affleck, who stars alongside Jeremy Renner, Rebecca Hall, Jon Hamm and Chris Cooper.

It was a crowded field this weekend as the fall film season began in earnest: Three other movies opened nationwide, with several more in limited release.

The high-school comedy "Easy A" from Columbia Pictures came in second place with $18.2 million, according to Sunday estimates. And the Universal Pictures thriller "Devil" from producer M. Night Shyamalan, about strangers trapped in an elevator, landed in third with $12.6 million.

Most box-office projections showed "Easy A" coming out on top. But as Warner Bros. distribution chief Dan Fellman explained, everything came together for "The Town" over the past 10 days, including playing well at the Toronto International Film Festival.

"The campaign was always great. We positioned it to open in early fall. We had confidence in the movie—we felt if we could get in early and give it an opportunity to run, it would," Fellman said. "It performed extremely well, had great word of mouth and good reviews."

Sort of "The Scarlet Letter" set in a Southern California high school, "Easy A" stars Emma Stone in a hugely charismatic performance as a whip-smart student who takes pity on geeky guys by letting them say they've had sex with her. Eventually she wears this pseudo-promiscuity like a badge of honor.

1. **"The Town,"** $23.8 million.
2. **"Easy A,"** 18.2 million.
3. **"Devil,"** $12.6 million.
4. **"Resident Evil: Afterlife,"** $10.1 million.
5. **"Alpha and Omega,"** $9.2 million.
6. **"Takers,"** $9 million.
7. **"The American,"** $2.8 million.
8. **"Inception,"** $2 million.
9. **"The Other Guys,"** $2 million.
10. **"Machete,"** $1.7 million.

AP

In this publicity image released by Warner Bros., Rebecca Hall, left, and Ben Affleck are shown in a scene from, "The Town."

"She really, really is on her way," Rory Bruer, Sony's president of worldwide distribution, said of the 21-year-old Stone. "For us, this is the third movie we've had her in, and whether it's 'Zombieland' or 'Superbad,' she's a great comedienne."

Plus, "Easy A" cost just $8 million to make, Bruer said, "so it's already an incredible success for us."

The critical and commercial success of "The Town" shows Affleck's directorial debut, the Oscar-nominated "Gone Baby Gone" from 2007, was no fluke, said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

"Ben Affleck is taking a page right out of the Clint Eastwood handbook. Obviously, he was known for being an actor but he's very quickly gaining a reputation as a first-class director. He's made a great movie," Dergarabedian said. "His acting comes under fire every once in a while, but he was really good. He's surrounded himself with the best possible people, and the adult drama is back."

Last week's No. 1 movie, the 3-D horror sequel "Resident Evil: Afterlife" from Sony-Screen Gems, dropped to fourth place with $10.1 million.

The week's other new wide release, Lionsgate's "Alpha and Omega," opened with $9.2 million for fifth place. The 3-D animated wolf tale, which received just 15 percent positive reviews on the Rotten Tomatoes website, features the voices of Justin Long, Hayden Panettiere and Danny Glover.

In four theaters, Fox Searchlight's "Never Let Me Go" made $120,830 in its first weekend for a strong per-screen average of $30,208. The science-fiction drama starring Carey Mulligan, Andrew Garfield and Keira Knightley has made $165,331 since opening Wednesday.

And playing in 12 theaters, the documentary "Catfish" opened with $178,267 for the weekend, or a per-screen average of $21,271. From Universal's Rogue label, "Catfish" follows a mysterious online relationship that develops between a New York photographer and a family in Michigan.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

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Devil
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15
Chris Mesina, Geoffrey Arend
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
The first in a series of collaborations from Media Rights Capital and M. Night Shyamalan comes in the form of Devil, a supernatural horror film based on an idea by the enigmatic filmmaker. Going off of a script by Brian Nelson is Quarantine director John Erick Dowdle, who handles producing duties with his brother Drew.

Alpha And Omega
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:50
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon through Thurs 4:00 7:00
Justin Long, Christina Ricci
Children's, Family • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Lionsgate presents this animated tale of two wolves (voiced by Justin Long and Hayden Panettiere) trying to find their way home to their pack after being kidnapped. Christina Ricci, Danny Glover, Dennis Hopper, and Larry Miller also supply voices for the Crest Animation production, helmed by Anthony Bell and Ben Gluck from a script by Chris Denk.

The Town
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25
Ben Affleck, Rebecca Hall
Crime • Rated R
Synopsis
Gone Baby Gone director Ben Affleck adapts author Chuck Hogan's Hammett Prize-winning novel concerning four thieves who are hunted on the streets of Boston by a determined FBI agent and a woman with the power to bring them all to their knees.

Resident Evil: Afterlife
Friday 4:30 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30
Mila Jovovich, Ali Larter
Action, Horror • Rated R

Machete
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:40
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:40
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05
Danny Trejo, Robert DeNiro
Action • Rated R

The Expendables
Friday 4:10 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:20
Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:20
Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham
War • Rated R

The Other Guys
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:35
Saturday 1:10 4:20 7:10 9:35
Sunday 1:10 4:20 7:10
Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:10
Mark Wahlberg, Will Farrell
Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Reggae star Buju Banton faces drug trial in US

MIAMI (AP)—On his upcoming album "Before the Dawn," Jamaican reggae star Buju Banton crows about standing strong, though battered and bruised, in the face of a gathering darkness.

The songs sound prophetic—the four-time Grammy nominee recorded them before he was arrested on federal cocaine charges last December. The trial is scheduled to start Monday in Tampa—a week before the album's U.S. release. He faces a possible life sentence if convicted.

"I've been accused, wrongly convicted. Jah knows I'm innocent," he sings in his gravelly voice, invoking the Rastafarian God. "I've been badly singled out by beloved friends ... who sold me out."

Banton recorded the album's 10 songs last year in Kingston, Jamaica, before his arrest at his Miami-area home on a charge of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms (11 pounds) of cocaine. A grand jury indictment also charged him with carrying a firearm during the course of a drug trafficking crime.

AP

In this Oct. 13, 2003 file photo, Jamaican reggae star Buju Banton poses at the Source Hip-Hop Music Awards in Miami.

He worked on the album with producers and engineers over the phone from Tampa-area jails, where the 37-year-old has been held without bail since the beginning of the year.

According to the indictment, Banton and an associate negotiated with an informant to buy the cocaine. Along with a third man, they allegedly met with an undercover officer in Sarasota in early December to buy the drugs. The informant told Drug Enforcement Administration agents that he also saw the singer inspecting the cocaine.

'The King's Speech' named fan favorite at festival

TORONTO (AP)—"The King's Speech" was crowned the fan favorite at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sunday, a possible precursor to an Academy Award nomination.

The British/Australian film is a critically acclaimed portrait of a stammering monarch preparing for war. It stars Colin Firth as King George VI, Geoffrey Rush as his Australian speech therapist and Helena Bonham Carter as the Queen Mother.

It won the Cadillac People's Choice Award as the most popular film. The festival itself doesn't give out awards, but there are a few awards from sponsor companies.

The film festival's director, Piers Handling, predicted Oscar nominations for the three leads and a possible best picture slot for Tom Hooper's film, noting it garnered steady attention throughout the 11-day movie festival that ended Sunday.

"So many people were talking about that film during the festival," said Handling, noting that previous audience-pleasers including "Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire" and "Slumdog Millionaire" went on to multiple Academy Award nominations.

The Toronto International Film Festival is a prime launching place for big Hollywood movies and Academy Awards contenders. Unlike such festivals as Cannes, Venice and Sundance, Toronto is a noncompetitive event where filmmakers are not up against one another for prizes.

School disinvites New Pornographers due to name

By KEVIN AMORIM
NEWSDAY

To indie-pop fans, the New Pornographers are neither novel nor into smut. It's just a name.

Apparently, that's not good enough for a college in Michigan.

An upcoming New Pornographers show at Calvin College has been canceled by the school.

The reason? "After weeks of discussion and consideration, the irony of the band's name was impossible to explain to many," the college, located in Grand Rapids, said in a statement. It was just too much for Calvin, which is described on its website as "distinctly Christian, academically excellent, always reforming."

The band—led by Carl Newman and Neko Case—didn't make a big deal about it, simply posting a note on its website saying the Oct. 15 show was canceled and providing information on refunds. And for the record, the group takes its name from a '60s Japanese film whose title was loosely translated to "The Pornographers."

AP

A statue of musician Frank Zappa stands outside a library in Baltimore, the city where Zappa was born, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010.

Baltimore honors late rocker Frank Zappa with bust

BALTIMORE (AP)—Rocker Frank Zappa was born in Baltimore but gained greater popular acclaim in Europe than in the United States. On Sunday, devout European fans of the late musician brought his mustachioed likeness back home in the form of a bronze bust.

Several hundred fans gathered on a sweltering afternoon as city officials dedicated the bust of the ponytailed rocker outside an east Baltimore library. The bust is a replica of another in a public square in Vilnius, Lithuania, and was donated to the city by Zappa enthusiasts in the small Baltic nation.

"The spirit of Frank Zappa is alive and well in Baltimore," Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said.

The mayor joined Zappa's widow, Gail, and three of his grown children in watching as a curtain was drawn back to reveal the bust set atop a 12-foot (3.6-meter) steel pole. Later, Zappa's son, Dweezil, took the stage with his tribute band, Zappa Plays Zappa.

Zappa was known for everything from novelty rock songs to elaborate classical compositions. He died of prostate cancer in 1993 at 52.

Sunday's ceremony marked the 25th anniversary of Zappa's testimony before Congress on freedom of expression for recording artists, though the scheduling was coincidental. Zappa had testified against proposed warning labels about lyrical content, calling them a path to censorshiop.

Libraries were a vital resource for Zappa, who had no formal music education, Gail Zappa told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

Zappa would have appreciated the bizarre way he came to be honored in his birthplace, his widow said.

Lady Gaga to rally in Maine against 'don't ask'

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Organizers say Lady Gaga is visiting Maine's largest city to join a rally against the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays.

The singer is expected to join a Servicemembers Legal Defense Network event near the University of Southern Maine's Portland campus Monday. Network spokesman Trevor Thomas says she'll stand alongside veterans discharged because of the policy, which forbids military recruiters from asking about people's sexual orientations and prohibits service members from revealing if they're gay.

The organization is trying to pressure Republican Sens. Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine to vote to allow a repeal of the policy. Collins previously voted for a provision to repeal.

Lady Gaga recently called on Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to repeal the policy during an interview with Ellen DeGeneres. Her representatives haven't returned e-mails seeking comment.

AP

In this Aug. 12, 2008 photo Lady Gaga makes an appearance at MTV Studio's in Times Square for MTV's "Total Request Live" show in New York.

Randy Quaid, wife face burglary charges

SANTA BARBARA, California (AP)—Actor Randy Quaid and his wife are facing burglary charges in California after the owner of the couple's old house reported they had been living there without permission.

A representative of the property owner called Santa Barbara County sheriff's deputies Saturday afternoon to report that squatters had been staying in the guest house illegally. When deputies arrived at the house that evening, they found Randy and Evi Quaid, who said they had owned the property since the 1990s.

The property owner's representative provided documents that showed his client had bought the home in 2007 from a man who had purchased it from the Quaids several years earlier. A contractor showed police more than $5,000 in damages to the guest house that he believed was caused by the Quaids.

Randy Quaid

Evi Quaid

Police arrested the Quaids on charges of felony residential burglary and entering a noncommercial building without consent, a misdemeanor. Police also charged Evi Quaid, 47, with resisting arrest.

Bail was set at $50,000 each. Messages left with Quaid's attorney and agent were not immediately returned Sunday.

Last September, the couple was charged with defrauding an innkeeper of more than $10,000 as well as conspiracy and burglary after an invalid credit card was used at San Ysidro Ranch in Montecito.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

'As the World Turns' stops spinning after 54 years

NEW YORK (AP)—It's the last go-round for "As the World Turns." TV's oldest daytime drama aired its final episode Friday, concluding a run that began in April 1956. Always full of emotional turmoil, "World" was set in the mythical town of Oakdale, Illinois, where there was no shortage of couplings, heartbreak, double-dealing and hairpin plot twists. CBS announced in December that it was pulling the plug on the New York-based show, which ranked at the bottom of the ratings among network soaps. It wrapped production in June. Big events this week included Jack (Michael Park) remarrying oft-wed Carly (Maura West). Janet (Julie Pinson) gave birth to her ex-husband Jack's son. Then a DNA test revealed the father of the child was really Janet's betrothed, Dusty (Grayson McCouch). And—more joyous news—Carly learned she was pregnant with Jack's child. "I think things turned out exactly the way they were supposed to," Janet said.

Mark Twain finally gets recognition in Nevada

RENO, Nevada (AP)—Mark Twain is finally getting some recognition in the state where he assumed his pen name as a newspaper reporter nearly 150 years ago. The Nevada State Board on Geographic Names has voted to name a cove on Lake Tahoe's northeast shore for Samuel Clemens, Mark Twain's real name. The name now goes to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for final action. Nevada historians believe the site is where Twain accidentally started a wildfire in 1861 while preparing to cook dinner over a campfire. He later assumed his pen name as a reporter in nearby Virginia City. Nevada state Archivist Jeff Kintop, a board member, said there is no geographic feature in the state named for Twain, whose book "Roughing It" put Nevada on the map.

South Africa's Big Brother boots punching resident

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A South Africa-based satellite channel has unilaterally evicted a participant from its "Big Brother" reality show after receiving complaints from viewers and rights groups when he struck a female housemate. M-Net spokeswoman Lani Lombard said Hannington Kuteesa breached the show's rules by assaulting contestant Lerato Sengadi on Tuesday, which prompted the channel to decide to evict him Friday, him rather than allowing viewers to vote on it. Rights groups and viewers had called for his dismissal over the assault. The show confines 14 people to a camera-rigged house in Johannesburg for 91 days. Viewers vote to evict contestants one by one. British and American versions of the reality show were wildly popular, launching imitations worldwide, with some participants later becoming celebrities.

Oktoberfest kicks off in Munich

BERLIN (AP)—Munich's mayor has tapped the first keg, opening this year's annual Oktoberfest in southern Germany, where millions of guest from around the globe are expected to clink mugs of frothy beer in celebration of 200 years of the world renown festival. Mayor Christian Ude used two swift taps of his hammer to open the first keg Saturday and declare "O'zapft is," or "It's tapped," signaling the opening of the beer festival that runs for the next 17 days. This year's Oktoberfest marks 200 years since it was first held to celebrate the wedding of Crown Prince Ludwig of Bavaria. It is also the first year that smoking will be banned in the beer tents after the southern German state of Bavaria passed strict anti-smoking legislation earlier this year.

Next generation may give new life to heirloom baby set

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My mother passed away two years ago, and her first great-grandchild will be born in less than two months. I had hoped when I was still in my 30s to have a child of my own, so I had Mom crochet me a baby set—sweater, booties, cap and blanket. Sadly, motherhood for me was not to be.

Do you think this baby set should go to the firstborn great-grandchild, or to Mom's favorite grandchild's children? The color is gender-neutral. Should I perhaps "loan" it to each of the great-grandchildren when they arrive to ensure that it will be maintained as a family heirloom? I paid for all the materials and Mom's time in creating these items. I feel it would be selfish not to share them.

SOON-TO-BE-GREAT-AUNT

DEAR SOON-TO-BE-GREAT-AUNT: If you wish to establish that the baby set will become a family heirloom, stipulate that it is your intention that it be shared among the family members as more children come along. I do not recommend playing favorites with it, because to do so could create resentment.

However, it is important that you understand that once the baby set is given, it will be out of your control. There are no guarantees that it won't be damaged or hoarded. So unless you are ready to let go of it emotionally, don't give it away.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am writing about a random act of kindness. Last night my husband and I went out to dinner with our two small children. He's in the Army and wore his uniform because he had gotten off late and he didn't want to keep the kids from eating while he changed.

While we waited for our meal to be served, our waiter came to us and said it was our "lucky night." The couple seated next to us was paying for the entire meal. Things like this have happened to my husband before—with small lunches or drinks—but never something as large as dinner for four. The gesture was touching and thoughtful, and made more special by the fact that it was the woman's birthday. That she thought of someone else on "her" day made me smile.

We only got the gentleman's name—it was Russell, like our son's —but not hers. We want to express our gratitude to her. And we hope her birthday was as delightful as our evening was, thanks to her.

TOUCHED BY HER KINDNESS IN
FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZ.

DEAR TOUCHED: I'm sure it was. Happy people like to spread the joy around. And thank you for reminding me and my readers how much an expression of gratitude to our members of the military can mean to those who receive one.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a beautiful 2-month-old daughter, and I like to dress her in little pants and shirts rather than dresses. Often these clothes are in gender-neutral colors—yellow, green and, yes, sometimes blue.

Whenever she's wearing something other than pink, people assume she's a boy and say things like, "Oh, what a handsome little guy," or, "Hi, big boy!"

How would you suggest I respond to these people? Should I ignore them and go on with my errands or correct them? I hope that by reading this people will think before they assume a baby's gender based on the color of his/her clothing.

ANNOYED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR ANNOYED: They may or may not. The next time it happens, smile at the person and say, "It's a girl!"

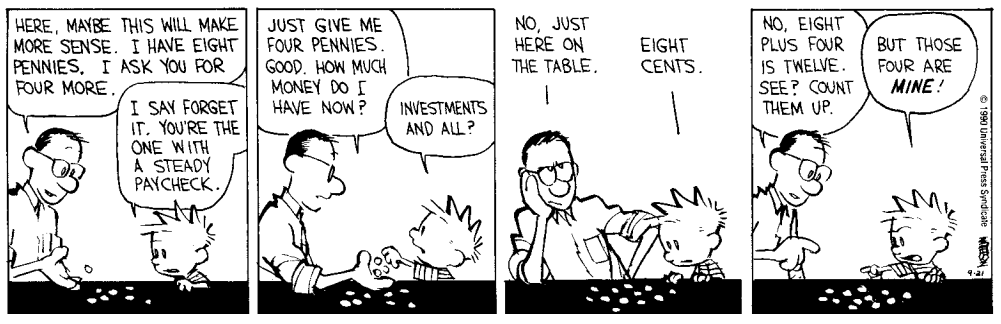
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE, MAYBE THIS WILL MAKE MORE SENSE. I HAVE EIGHT PENNIES. I ASK YOU FOR FOUR MORE.
I SAY FORGET IT. YOU'RE THE ONE WITH A STEADY PAYCHECK.
JUST GIVE ME FOUR PENNIES. GOOD. HOW MUCH MONEY DO I HAVE NOW?
INVESTMENTS AND ALL?
NO, JUST HERE ON THE TABLE.
EIGHT CENTS.
NO, EIGHT PLUS FOUR IS TWELVE. SEE? COUNT THEM UP.
BUT THOSE FOUR ARE MINE!
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By Jim Davis

I MADE YOU SUGAR-FREE COOKIES...
WITH RAISINS!
HAVE YOU ALWAYS HAD THIS DARK SIDE?
JIM DAVIS 9-21
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO HOW WAS YOUR DAY AT SCHOOL?
GOOD. WE PLAYED, AND THEN A SNACK AND THEN WE READ AND THEN WE ATE AND THEN WE PLAYED AND THEN A SNACK.
OH, I HADN'T HEARD THAT THEY WERE GOING TO MODEL THE LESSON PLAN AFTER YOUR DAD'S WORKDAY.
I ONLY HAD ONE SNACK TODAY.
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9.21

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHEN'S THE LAST TIME WE CLEANED OUT THE FRIDGE?
CALL THE NEIGHBOR KID AND ASK IF HE NEEDS A SCIENCE PROJECT.
9/21
GLENN MCCOY
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

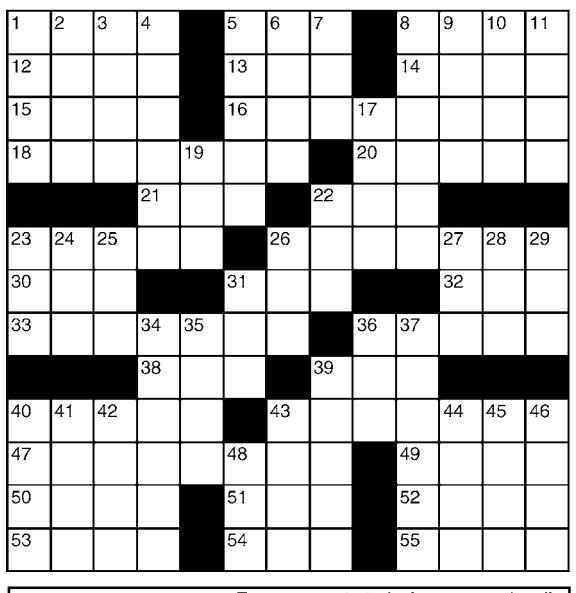
ACROSS
1 "Scram!"
5 Kitten's call
8 Information
12 Arizona tribe
13 Judge Lance
14 Wander
15 Sheltered
16 "— of Arabia"
18 Construction worker
20 Ancient Greek theater
21 Longing
22 Suitcase
23 Restaurant request
26 "Cold Mountain" actor
30 Hockey milieu
31 Crucial
32 Fuss
33 Docket entry
36 Newsstand, e.g.
38 Branch
39 Family
40 Straighten
43 Loses vitality
47 Cabbage recipe
49 Needle case
50 Tattoo parlor supply
51 "The Greatest"
52 McNally partner
53 Odometer stat
54 "Of course"
55 Otherwise

DOWN
1 Persian bigwig of yore
2 Soda pop choice
3 Mimic
4 Color a shirt, hippie-style
5 Italian city
6 Coup d'—
7 "Holy mackerel!"
8 Coat with flour
9 Top-notch
10 Mexican entree
11 Prayer ending
17 Highway
19 That girl
22 Purchase
23 Lubricate
24 HDTV brand
25 Morning moisture
26 Lustrous black
27 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
28 Billboards
29 Stir-fry vessel
31 Actress Novak
34 Most judicious
35 Ornamental vases
36 Caboodle's partner
37 Belong naturally
39 New Zealanders
40 Hydrochloric, e.g.
41 Actress Anderson
42 Sorts
43 Corduroy ridge
44 And others (Lat.)
45 Gallops
46 Faction
48 Deposit

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	H	A	D	■	T	E	N	■	M	O	S	H
L	E	V	Y	■	I	M	A	■	U	P	T	O
A	M	I	N	■	A	U	G	U	S	T	U	S
D	I	S	A	R	M	■	S	P	L	I	N	T
■	■	■	M	E	A	S	■	S	I	C	■	■
A	U	T	O	C	R	A	T	■	N	I	P	S
I	K	E	■	S	I	L	V	A	■	A	V	E
D	E	M	S	■	A	U	D	I	E	N	C	E
■	■	■	P	E	P	■	D	I	D	I	■	■
F	L	E	X	E	D	■	N	A	T	I	O	N
A	U	S	T	R	I	A	N	■	H	O	M	E
R	A	T	E	■	E	Y	E	■	E	W	E	S
M	U	S	T	■	D	E	R	■	R	A	N	T

Yesterday's answer 9-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joseph Mazzello, 27; Luke Wilson, 39; Faith Hill, 43; Stephen King, 63

Happy Birthday: There are gains to be made by using your wisdom, experience and ingenuity to advance. Making a couple of strategic moves personally will help to stabilize your position on all fronts in the future. Welcome change. Opportunities to improve relationships are present if you take advantage of what's being offered. Your numbers are 4, 10, 17, 22, 26, 37, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You have to relax and realize that you can only do what's humanly possible. Stop being so hard on yourself and focus more on the moment. A partnership that has given you trouble in the past may be worth revisiting. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Deliver any information you have with gusto and learn from the people to whom you offer your knowledge and experience. Open up the doors of communication and network. Diversify and you can outdo any competition. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Tread carefully or you will offend someone you are trying to get to know better or work with. Offering help to an organization or individual for the wrong reason will end in disaster as well as financial loss. Budget wisely and work on self-improvement. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You may not be ready for a change but you must take advantage of any opportunity that helps you get ahead. Take on a new challenge that can change your status and your income. A romantic evening will lead to better understanding. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Clear up any personal paperwork or changes that need to be made at home. A move or redecorating will improve your overall attitude and comfort level. An unusual lifestyle change will help you achieve greater self-satisfaction. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): There will be opportunities to make some changes at home that accommodate a relationship you are trying to improve. Love is on the rise and speaking from the heart will bring the desired results. Financial gains are in the stars. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't waste time on situations you cannot change. Focus on work, making money and getting ahead and you will. A creative approach to what you have to offer will interest someone with the potential to help you develop and present what you can supply. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Have a little faith in yourself, your relationships and your ability to finish what you start. Travel or using technology wisely will allow you to bring what you have to offer to potential clients. Romance is likely. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be careful what you promise. You may get yourself into trouble if you cannot fulfill the obligations you've taken on. Talk less and take action. Upset and opposition can be expected when dealing with family matters. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): No matter what you face professionally or personally, participation is all that's required. You can set a new standard and influence the people you deal with by offering your experience and knowledge. Reuse, recycle, revamp equals success. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Be creative and offer only what you know you can fulfill. Question your connection to friends and you will realize who belongs in your life and who doesn't. Once you set your course, it will be easier to stick to the plans you have for the future. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Look at contracts, settlements or legal documents and consider how you can turn negatives into positives. Money can be made if you partner with someone of talent with the potential to make an idea you have work. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have strong beliefs and are moral and ethical. You have tremendous compassion for the underdog. You are intense, practical and persistent.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				4	5	7		
9	3			2		8		
2						1		
		6		7			8	
	1						9	
	8			1		2		
		8						4
		9		5			6	8
		4	2	6				

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

1	6	7	4	2	3	8	9	5
5	4	3	9	1	8	6	2	7
8	2	9	6	7	5	1	4	3
6	7	1	3	9	4	5	8	2
3	9	2	8	5	7	4	1	6
4	5	8	2	6	1	7	3	9
2	8	5	7	4	9	3	6	1
9	1	4	5	3	6	2	7	8
7	3	6	1	8	2	9	5	4

Difficulty Level ★ 9/20

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BLOOD DRIVES **Solution: 6 letters**

M	E	C	N	A	T	S	I	S	S	A	S	E	O	T
D	A	R	H	R	V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R	S
R	(P)	(L)	(E)	(H)	T	E	S	N	U	T	Q	A	G	E
O	E	A	L	P	S	B	U	D	T	U	N	A	A	C
P	T	S	I	I	A	A	E	I	I	S	L	P	N	R
S	I	N	P	N	L	N	M	P	F	L	O	R	I	U
A	S	O	K	T	T	M	M	U	O	L	O	O	Z	O
V	P	I	C	S	O	E	S	N	U	E	H	G	A	S
E	R	S	O	C	N	I	S	S	N	C	C	R	T	E
L	O	S	T	T	O	S	S	T	S	A	S	A	I	R
C	M	E	S	N	K	Y	T	I	N	U	M	M	O	C
I	O	S	S	C	E	D	O	N	O	R	P	E	N	A
H	T	L	A	E	H	V	R	T	R	O	P	P	U	S
E	E	N	O	I	T	C	E	L	L	O	C	O	L	E
V	S	C	R	E	E	N	Y	T	I	R	A	H	C	Y

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Yesterday's Answer: Good Time

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Sablan's request for $1.35 mil fund seven programs and projects tained in the Conference Report o Year 2010 Consolidated Appro Act, a $447-billion spending me
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Manning Matchup II: Colts rout Giants, 38-14

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Peyton Manning showed some compassion for his little brother. It didn't help - the Indianapolis Colts pummeled Eli anyway.

Big brother Peyton dispensed with his usual encouragement for his defense to get after the opposing quarterback. No matter: Peyton proved he still rules America's first family of quarterbacks and the Colts dominated Eli's New York Giants 38-14 Sunday night.

Manning Matchup II was no contest.

"No, I didn't," four-time league MVP Peyton said of dropping his pregame pep talk. He didn't need to do all that much thanks to the way Indy's running backs, offensive line and defense gouged the Giants (1-1).

"I really just kind of focused on the defense and on our running game," Peyton said after he threw for three touchdowns. "This was a different kind of game for me. The run really was the ticket tonight."

But the focus, naturally, was on Peyton vs. Eli.

"I told him I loved him," Peyton said of their 10-minute conversation after the game. "I think they will be fine. They play the Titans next week and we'll being pulling hard for them to help us in the AFC South. We will do our best to help them when we play all these NFC East teams.

"I am proud of him and I love him."

One week after a distressingly lopsided loss at Houston, the Colts (1-1) looked like defending AFC champions. They made Eli and his team resemble amateurs, forcing two quarterback fumbles that gave Indianapolis 14 points.

Four years ago, in the first meeting of sibling NFL quarterbacks, Peyton's Colts won 26-21 at the Meadowlands. Five months later, he guided Indy to the Super Bowl title.

A year later, it was Eli matching that championship, leading the Giants to one of the NFL's biggest upsets over undefeated New England.

The brothers even have grabbed the spotlight away from the field with a series of commercials, including one in which Eli locks Peyton in a closet before heading to the stadium. Maybe he should have used that strategy Sunday night.

The Mannings chatted during pregame warmups and met at midfield for the coin toss, twice shaking hands, but otherwise they could have been total strangers during the game. There were no signs of Peyton wincing on the sideline - or father Archie cringing in the stands - while Eli was being pounded.

Eli was hugged by both parents after the loss and refused to address the matchup after the game.

"We couldn't get into a rhythm," he said. "The whole first half, when you can't get first downs, it's hard as an offense to get into all your plays and your calls, and a lot of three-and-outs.

"They outplayed us, and that's what it came down to."

Archie, hurrying down the hall behind the locker rooms, was asked what he does on nights like this when he has one son on each side. He smiled, shrugged his shoulders and said, "I don't know. It's tough."

It was toughest on Eli, for sure.

Indy was unrelenting on the pass rush, unnerving the younger Manning and forcing a fumble on Robert Mathis' sack late in the second quarter. That's not the kind of break you give the Colts, and big brother threw for 43 yards on a TD drive that ended with Austin Collie's 3-yard reception with 9 seconds left in the half. That made it 24-0.

Eli nearly was sacked on the first play of the second half, but then showed some resilience by taking New York 87 yards for its first score. He hit Mario Manningham for a 54-yard touchdown pass against a blitz.

But Dwight Freeney sacked the New York QB on the next series, and Fili Moala rolled into the end zone with the loose ball. Giants coach Tom Coughlin just shook his head in frustration while Eli dejectedly trudged to the sideline.

Freeney and Mathis each had two sacks.

"We go into every game thinking this is what it is going to be," Freeney said. "I think as a player you have to think that way, that we are going to shut these guys down. It doesn't happen every week, obviously ... it's not surprising."

It clearly wasn't just Peyton over Eli that decided this ballyhooed Week 2 game, however. Indy's ability to run over the Giants was just as crucial.

Joseph Addai, who gained 44 yards at Houston, nearly doubled that in the first half with 80 yards rushing. Donald Brown added 44, and by game's end they accumulated 156.

They keyed an 80-yard drive to open things, getting 33 yards on seven carries, with Brown surging through a huge hole on the left side for 7 yards and a TD.

Indianapolis never backed off as Addai and Brown alternated dominating New York's defense, particularly on a 98-yard march capped by Peyton's perfect lob throw to Dallas Clark.

The Colts were weak against the run last week, surrendering 257 yards overall, 231 to Houston's Arian Foster. The Giants have a far more vaunted ground game than the Texans, yet managed only 120, much of it in garbage time.

"Whenever we can have the game go our way, when we score a lot of points, the way our defense is designed, when we get those leads, we make them one dimensional, and it is playing into our hands," Freeney said. "That's playing into my game and I can kind of make some things happen."

All the while, Eli was looking like a lost younger brother, and he wasn't going to get bailed out by Peyton. He went 3 for 8 for 17 yards in the first half, which included a deep pass into triple coverage that was intercepted by Jerraud Powers. Although he hit the long pass to Manningham in the third quarter and a 31-yard TD to Hakeem Nicks with 1:46 to go, Eli wound up 13 for 24 for 161 yards.

Peyton finished his winning night with a 10-yard TD pass to Reggie Wayne with 9:11 remaining.

AP

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, right, greets his brother New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning following an NFL football game in Indianapolis, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010. Indianapolis won 38-14.

Redemption day for Vick

DETROIT (AP)—On the bus ride to his first start at quarterback since 2006, Michael Vick thought of everything that has happened the last several years.

Then he went out and took full advantage of the opportunity. Vick looked like the Pro Bowler he used to be by effortlessly flicking the football down the field and avoiding sacks with slick steps.

Vick's second touchdown pass put the Philadelphia Eagles ahead just before halftime and they had to hold on to beat the Detroit Lions 35-32 Sunday.

He didn't take the first snap in a game the past three seasons because he served an 18-month prison sentence for his role in a dogfighting operation and spent last year as a backup.

Vick said he reflects "all the time" on his journey back onto an NFL field.

"It's been a long road for me," he said softly. "It's been tough. Throughout it all, I had to be resilient and overcome a lot of adversity and self-inflicted wounds."

The electrifying athlete was 21 of 34—connecting with nine teammates—for 284 yards with two TDs, ran for 37 yards and escaped losses with the spin moves of a dancer and speed of a sprinter.

"A lot of people doubted him and said he wasn't able to do this," said DeSean Jackson, who caught four of Vick's passes for 135 yards and a TD. "He's been able to prove everybody wrong."

LeSean McCoy gave the Eagles (1-1) an 18-point lead on his third score with 6:17 left, but they gave Detroit comeback hopes.

The Lions (0-2) rallied to pull within three points and recovered an onside kick with 1:48 left, but turned the ball over on downs without gaining a yard.

"I'm proud to stand among the players," coach Jim Schwartz said. "This is a tough team, a team that's resilient, that fights through a lot of situations."

Detroit has had to deal with a lot of tough times, winning just twice last year after enduring the league's first 0-16 season. The franchise is a league-worst 33-113 since 2001.

The Lions lost their franchise QB - Matthew Stafford - in the season-opening loss at Chicago with an injured right shoulder and had to turn to Shaun Hill. He was 25 of 45 for 335 yards with two TDs, including one to Calvin Johnson late in the game, and had two interceptions.

"The losses are tough, but you can only worry about them for a day," Hill said. "You can't dwell on mistakes."

The Eagles didn't dwell on Vick's, giving him a shot to revive his career last year.

He was more than ready to take the first snap in place of Kevin Kolb, who missed the game because of a concussion.

Eagles coach Andy Reid insisted before the game he didn't need to reassure Kolb he was still the team's starting QB. Even though Vick seemed to do enough to make it tough to put him back on the bench, Reid said it won't be difficult to turn him back into a part-time player.

"We've got more plays for him than we did a year ago, so he'll be on the field," Reid said. "It isn't going to be five or six plays this year."

Guillen grand slam helps Giants regain lead

San Francisco Giants' Jose Guillen hits a bases-loaded two-RBI single against the Milwaukee Brewers in the fifth inning of a baseball game on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010, in San Francisco. The Giants won, 9-2.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Jose Guillen stood in front of his locker and grinned.

"I guess I'm officially a Giant now," he said. "I finally did something when it counted."

He sure did!

Guillen hit a grand slam and drove in six runs, Barry Zito won for the first time in two months and the San Francisco Giants regained first place in the NL West with a 9-2 win over the Milwaukee Brewers on Sunday.

After a loss Saturday to fall behind San Diego in the West, the Giants moved a 1/2 -game up on the Padres, who lost to St. Louis 4-1.

"Nothing comes easy from this point on," Guillen said. "You have to be smart, go hard and do whatever it takes to win games."

Zito pitched six solid innings to end a career-worst nine-game losing streak and record a victory for the first time since July 16. He gave up two runs and three hits, walking one and striking out three.

"The last couple of starts the team lost but personally I felt better than I have previously," Zito said. "I was building off those. After the four-spot it's up to me and not take anything for granted."

Ryan Braun hit a two-run homer for the Brewers, who were officially eliminated from the NL Central division race. Braun also robbed Cody Ross of a home run in the first inning, reaching over the fence to pull back his drive.

"It was right down the line," Braun said. "I didn't think I had a chance at it. I was pretty excited to come back with it. It was well over the fence."

Pat Burrell hit a three-run homer in the seventh and Guillen added a two-run single in the fifth.

"The main thing was finding my consistency," Guillen said. "The last few days I've been able to find it. Everything is clicking at the right time."

Guillen's first-inning grand slam off Chris Narveson (11-8) was the fifth of his career and first since June 2008.

Dodgers 7, Rockies 6, 11 innings

At Los Angeles, A.J. Ellis lined an RBI single over a drawn-in infield in the 11th inning after Matt Kemp(notes) doubled home the tying run in the ninth, helping Los Angeles record its biggest comeback win of the season.

George Sherrill (2-2) relieved demoted Dodgers closer Jonathan Broxton with the bases loaded and two out in the 11th, and struck out NL batting leader Carlos Gonzalez.

Phillies 7, Nationals 6

At Philadelphia, Jayson Werth hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning after Ryan Howard had a two-run single to lift the Phillies to their seventh straight win.

Werth's homer off Drew Storen (3-4) helped the Phillies maintain their three-game lead in the NL East over the Atlanta Braves. The teams begin a three-game series in Philadelphia on Monday night.

Braves 6, Mets 3

At New York, Derrek Lee delivered the huge hit the Braves desperately needed from him, launching a go-ahead grand slam in the seventh inning that sent Atlanta to a three-game sweep.

Lee greeted reliever Manny Acosta with his 11th career slam.

Derek Lowe (14-12) limited the Mets to David Wright's two-run homer over six innings, and the Braves' bullpen finished out the victory.

Cardinals 4, Padres 1

At St. Louis, Adam Wainwright earned his 19th win with a dominant performance and Colby Rasmus homered and scored twice, helping the Cardinals take three of four from San Diego.

Jon Garland (14-12) allowed four runs in seven innings for the Padres, who have lost 12 of their last 13 in St. Louis. San Diego dropped to second in the NL West, a half-game behind San Francisco.

Astros 4, Reds 3

At Houston, Brett Myers pitched seven scoreless innings, Humberto Quintero drove in two runs and the Houston Astros held off a late rally to win a series against Cincinnati.

Rookie Chris Johnson had a solo home run in the seventh inning to help the Astros take two of three games from the Reds. With St. Louis' 4-1 win over San Diego, Cincinnati's magic number for winning the division title remained eight.

Pirates 4, Diamondbacks 3

At Pittsburgh, Neil Walker hit a two-run homer in Pittsburgh's three-run eighth inning and the Pirates completed a three-game sweep.

Andrew McCutchen hit a leadoff drive in the first and finished with two hits for Pittsburgh, which has the worst record in baseball but has won five of its last six home games.

Cubs 13, Marlins 3

At Miami, Welington Castillo homered and drove in three runs to help Chicago beat the Marlins despite losing rookie outfielder Tyler Colvin to a scary injury.

Colvin was standing on third base in the second inning when part of Castillo's bat punctured his chest. Colvin scored on Castillo's double, but was replaced in the field in the bottom half and taken to a hospital.

Orioles 4, Yankees 3

At Baltimore, Luke Scott tied the game with a ninth-inning homer off Mariano Rivera, then scored the winning run in the 11th to give the Baltimore Orioles a 4-3 victory over the New York Yankees on Sunday.

Yankees starter Andy Pettitte returned from a two-month stay on the disabled list to allow one run and three hits in six innings. The lefthander, who had been sidelined since July 18 with a strained left groin, retired his final 11 batters.

Angels 6, Rays 3

At St. Petersburg, Peter Bourjos broke a tie with a three-run homer, Scott Kazmir won for the first time in six weeks and Los Angeles beat Tampa Bay.

Bourjos connected on a full-count pitch from Jeff Niemann (10-7) with two outs in the fourth, giving the Angels a 4-1 lead. Both baserunners—Howie Kendric and Hank Conger—reached on walks.

Athletics 6, Twins 2

At Minneapolis, Mark Ellis had three hits, including a two-run homer, and 30-year-old rookie Bobby Cramer won his second consecutive start in Oakland's victory over Minnesota.

The AL Central-leading Twins lost reigning AL MVP Joe Mauer to a balky left knee late in the game. He was replaced at catcher by Jose Morales in the seventh inning.

Mariners 2, Rangers 1

At Seattle, Doug Fister tossed seven impressive innings, outpitching Tommy Hunter to help Seattle beat the AL West-leading Texas Rangers.

Ryan Langerhans hit a leadoff triple in the seventh and scored on a single by Josh Wilson, giving the Mariners the lead and chasing Hunter (12-4).

Red Sox 6, Blue Jays 0

At Boston, Jon Lester pitched seven sharp innings and J.D. Drew homered in a five-run fifth as Boston avoided a three-game sweep by beating Toronto.

The Blue Jays were mathematically eliminated from the playoff race with the loss.

Lester (18-8) won his fifth straight start and became the first Red Sox lefty to win 18 games since Bruce Hurst in 1988. Lester pitched out of bases-loaded jams in the third and fifth, allowing four hits and four walks in all.

He struck out only four, snapping a string of four straight games in which he'd fanned at least 10.

Royals 6, Indians 4

At Kansas City, Luke Hochevar recovered from a shaky start to earn his first win since May 26 and Yuniesky Betancourt(notes) stole home, leading Kansas City over Cleveland.

The top pick in the 2006 amateur draft, Hochevar gave up three runs in the first two innings but none after that. He allowed eight hits over six innings, striking out five and walking one.

Tigers 9, White Sox 7, 11 innings

At Chicago, Gerald Laird hit a tie-breaking single in the 11th inning and Detroit escaped with a victory over the White Sox night when Manny Ramirez was caught looking at strike three with the bases loaded for the final out.

Jim Leyland became the 18th manager to work 3,000 games. He watched the Tigers score six in the seventh to take a 7-3 lead only to have the bullpen give it away in the ninth and barely escape at the finish.

Voyagers blank Turtles in 8-ball tourney

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The IT&E Voyagers recorded the most lopsided win in the Saipan Billiards Association's Budweiser Open 8-Ball League, while three other teams also prevailed in their respective games last week.

The home team Voyagers' Rolly Villanueava, R.J. Mascarinas, Boyet Sequioco, Jojo Talibong, and Luis Fajardo shut out the Turtles, 7-0, to remain on top of the Agingan division with their 15-6 record.

The Voyagers recorded the sweep without even playing a tiebreaker match in the singles games. The poor Turtles never had a chance in the doubles matches either.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the IT&E Voyagers, from left, Luis Fajardo, Jojo Talibong, Boyet Sequioco R.J. Mascarinas and team captain Rolly Villanueva pose for a group photo before their game against the Turtles.

Hustlers 4, Incredibles 3

The NTT Docomo Hustlers defeated the IT&E Incredibles, 4-3, on their home turf in the Utopia Sports Bar.

The Hustlers' Jerry Soriano, Senen Pangilinan, Rowel Mariano, and Erwin Gomez won four of the five singles matches to seal the automatic win before the two doubles games took place. Soriano, Pangilinan, and Gomez swept their opponents in two games, while Mariano edged out his man in the tiebreaker. Notably, both doubles matches went down to the final tiebreaker match, where the Incredibles came out on top both times.

With the win, the Hustlers moved closer to the lead of the IT&E Voyagers with the former improving to a 14-7 record. The Incredibles dropped to a 12-9 slate.

Fotten Palau 4, Home Boys 3

Taylor Watanabe, Mei Rengiil, and Ron Chisato of home team Fotten Palau won three of the five singles matches to take the advantage going into the two doubles matches. All three wins were off third-game tiebreakers. Then after the Home Boys swept the first doubles match, Fotten Palau's Chisato and John Mongami won the third-game tiebreaker, clinching the victory down to the very last rack.

Fotten Palau now has a 15-6 record, holding a firm grip of the top spot in the six-team Obyan division against Wild Bill's Shark Attack (11-10) and Who-oah (10-11).

Who-Oah! 5, ToroKeeRee 2

Who-oah! won three of the five singles matches to gain momentum going into the last pair of doubles games. All three wins were third-game tiebreakers courtesy of Gus Taitano, Ton Barcinas, and Tero Takai. Joey Cruz and Ray Takai sealed the automatic win after taking the first doubles match before Joe Villagomez and Tero Takai won the last doubles match.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	90	59	.604	–
Tampa Bay	89	59	.601	1/2
Boston	83	66	.557	7
Toronto	75	74	.503	15
Baltimore	59	90	.396	31

Central Division

Minnesota	89	60	.597	–
Chicago	79	70	.530	10
Detroit	75	74	.503	14
Cleveland	62	87	.416	27
Kansas City	61	87	.412	27 1/2

West Division

Texas	83	65	.561	–
Oakland	74	74	.500	9
Los Angeles	73	76	.490	10 1/2
Seattle	57	92	.383	26 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	89	61	.593	–
Atlanta	86	64	.573	3
New York	74	76	.493	15
Florida	73	75	.493	15
Washington	62	87	.416	26 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	84	66	.569	–
St. Louis	77	71	.520	6
Houston	72	77	.483	11 1/2
Milwaukee	69	79	.466	14
Chicago	68	81	.456	15 1/2
Pittsburgh	51	98	.342	32 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	84	66	.560	–
San Diego	83	66	.557	1/2
Colorado	82	66	.550	1 1/2
Los Angeles	73	77	.487	11 1/2
Arizona	59	91	.393	25

Yesterday's Games

San Francisco 9, Milwaukee 2
LA Dodgers 7, Colorado 6
Philadelphia 7, Washington 6
Atlanta 6, NY Mets 3
St. Louis 4, San Diego 1
Houston 4, Cincinnati 3
Pittsburgh 4, Arizona 3
Chi Cubs 13, Florida 3
Baltimore 4, NY Yankees 3
LA Angels 6, Tampa Bay 3
Oakland 6, Minnesota 2
Seattle 2, Texas 1
Boston 6, Toronto 0
Kansas City 6, Cleveland 4
Detroit 9, White Sox 7

EAGLES

From Page 28

12-2 record, with one of those two losses coming from the MBA Stormz.

This season, GCA had several players, who were part of last year's champion team, returning, making the Eagles the team to beat in the varsity league.

In the junior varsity division, defending champion GCA is in the middle of the pack with its 3-6 record.

Whispering Palms holds a better record than GCA in the junior varsity with its 7-1 slate, while the Seventh Day Adventist is not far behind with its 5-3 mark. Last year's runner-up Mt. Carmel School has a 3-5 record, while SIS-B remains winless in six games. Other schools competing in the junior varsity division, but have yet to release their records at press time are Calvary Christian Academy, MBA, Saipan Community School, and SIS-A.

Both divisions are already in the midseason and will continue with their regular season games today.

Over at SDA court in San Antonio, SIS-A will challenge the home team for the junior varsity game. Other matches in the junior varsity division scheduled for today are Calvary vs. Whispering Palms at Whispering Palms School in Navy Hill; MBA vs. SIS-B at SIS; and Mt. Carmel vs. GCA at GCA in Navy Hill.

Three varsity games are also set for today with SIS-A facing CCA at Calvary; Mt. Carmel dueling GCA at GCA; and MBA battling SIS-B at SIS.

The playoff round in the junior varsity and varsity divisions will start Oct. 18 and 25, respectively.

SAIPAL

From Page 28

the 2009 finals, gained a semis seat in this year's edition of the PCA tournament after downing the Hoops last Saturday, 14-6.

SaiPal drew a bye in the six-team tournament and was scoreless in the first two innings before getting its acts together in the next two innings to foil the Hoops upset bid. The defending champion scored seven runs each in the third and fourth inning turning a 0-4 deficit to a 14-4 advantage.

The Hoops never recovered from thereon, as they tallied only one run each in the fifth and sixth inning.

Lefty Shiro, Clifton Sillil, Payton Sakuma, Gloyd Martin, and John Wayne Kintaro teamed up in SaiPal's win, knocking in two runs each.

The 2009 runner-up Peleliu was paired against the Hitters in the first round with the former cruising to a 15-3 win after only five innings.

Peleliu shut out the Hitters in the first three innings and then hit its target in the fourth and fifth inning to nail an easy win. Peleliu was ahead by only two after the third inning, 2-0, when it earned five runs in the fourth and save the best for last with an eight-run top of the fifth.

The Hitters challenged last year's finalist with their all-female roster, which is composed of players who won the Belau women's league. To even up the playing field, Peleliu's batters were required to hit the ball from their weak side or a lefty batted from the right side and vice versa.

After the win, Peleliu then was pitted against Asahi, which also prevailed its opening game against Ngatpang, 14-4. Peleliu this time had a shutout win, 8-0, to arrange a semis tiff against SaiPal. The Peleliu-SaiPal semis game was scheduled yesterday afternoon, but results were unavailable at press time.

The winner of semis duel will advance to the finals and enjoy a twice-to-beat advantage against the eventual victor of the loser's bracket.

After Saturday's preliminary games, four teams dropped to the loser's bracket and were fighting for survival last Sunday.

In the first game, Ngatpang was scheduled to play against Hitters in the first game at 11am with the winner advancing in another must-win game against Hoops at 12pm last Sunday. The victor of the 12pm tiff was then slated to battle Asahi at 2pm and the winner of that last match last Sunday will meet the loser of the SaiPal-Peleliu tiff in the semifinals on Sept. 26.

The finals of the double-elimination tournament will also be played on Sept. 26 with Game 1 set for 12pm and Game 2, if necessary at 1:30pm.

IT&E

From Page 28

mo's come-from-behind win, as he caught fire in the clutch, hitting nine points in the second overtime.

Wings Travel went cold in the second extension period, making only three points.

Tony Diaz and Brandon Talania gave Wings Travel a good start, tallying eight points apiece. By the end of the first period, Wings Travel was ahead, 27-15, but Docomo offense showed up in the second quarter to cut the deficit to two at the break , 44-46.

Talania was at it again in the third period, knocking in 11 points to keep Wings Travel in front, 66-63.

In the fourth quarter, Docomo leaned on Jun Estolas, who scored 10 points and forced the game in overtime.

In the first extension, both teams were patient and read each other's strategy, while trying to protect their key players from fouling out. These resulted into another deadlock before Esdrelon broke loose in the second overtime to finally wrap up the game.

With the loss, Wings Travel dropped to a 1-2 slate.

In the first game, IT&E recovered from a slow start to whip Saimar Pilot.

IT&E trailed in the opening quarter, 15-18, but regained its bearings in the second period to take a 14-point lead at halftime, 36-22.

After the break, Saimar Pilot was never able to find an answer to IT&E's domination down low. IT&E extended their lead to 25, going into the final period, 62-37, behind Errol Peredo's 10 third-quarter points.

Saimar Pilot managed to lead early, as Sonny Lerio exploded for 12 points in the first quarter. However, Saimar Pilot slowed down in the second, getting only a couple of buckets from Leo Itaas.

On defense, Saimar Pilot could not contain IT&E from getting the rebounds and the former just lost momentum to absorb its second loss in three games.

First Game

IT&E 82 – Devero 16, B. Montano 14, Peredo 12, Naraja 9, Tumaquip 9, Usi 6, Dayrit 4, De Dios 4, J. Montano 4, Park 4.

Saimar Pilot 55 – Lerio 18, Itaas 15, Arcangel 9, Musni 4, Jugos 4, Capalad 2, Doronilla 2, Ong 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-18, 38-22, 62-37, 82-55.

Second Game

Docomo Pacific 119 – Estolas 27, Esdrelon 23, Gamboa 22, Villarin 18, Santos 15, Manalo 5, Casabuena 2, Fernandez 2, Galzote 2.

Wings Travel 109 – Talania 27, Camacho 25, Diaz 24, Aquino 12, Guiang 11, Morales 4, Yalung 4, Ocampo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-27, 44-46, 63-66, 93-93, 105-105, 119-109.

MIEKO

From Page 28

the water aid stations is serving only natural water from a river. You can fill up your bottle or go to the river to get it," she added.

Carey kept pacing herself despite her uncertainty with the course, particularly the uphill road.

"My plan was just to save energy for the last few tough hills, but I don't know where are the last few tough hills. I asked some people how far and they said around 15K, but in the end it was around the 30K point," the XTERRA Japan champion said.

After completing the hilly course, Carey had two-kilometer flat course left to finish the race and at this point, she really pushed herself hard.

"I didn't get to push myself in the hilly course, so once on the flat road, I sprinted and finished first in the women's division," said Carey, who at press time is still in Japan and has yet to return Saipan Tribune's email, asking her time in the MTB race and the event's name.

"I might do the 120K next year, as the race was fun," said Carey, who thanked Brabu, Zoot, and Louis Garneau for supporting her races.

Carey is expected to be back on Saipan before her Oct. 3 fundraiser for XTERRA World. She will leave Saipan again next month to compete in XTERRA World in Hawaii on Oct. 24.

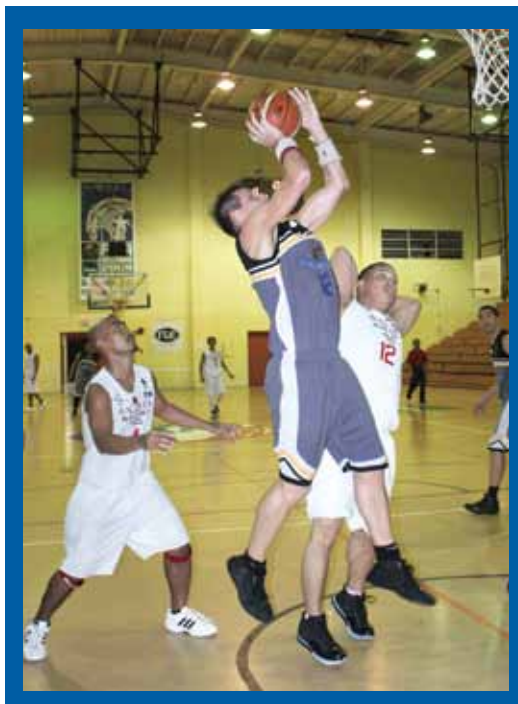
2010 Budweiser Men's Basketball League Playoffs

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IT&E's Kirk Schuler, right, beats Becks' Kelvin Fitial, and teammate Bruce Berline for the rebound.

Becks Sixsevenoh's James Camacho goes for a left-handed shot against three IT&E Hoegaarden defenders during their playoff game in the 2010 Budweiser Men's Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The CNMI Nationals' Peter Mendiola splits the defense of IT&E's Edsel Mendoza, left, and Darwin Barbo.



IT&E's Bruce Berline pulls up for a shot against Hi-5's Bart Demapan.

The CNMI Nationals' Jose Tumaquip is defended by IT&E's Brendon Talania.

The CNMI Nationals' Pete Iguel looks for a teammate to pass the ball to during their game against Hi-5.

Bacardi Mojito Hi-5's Dave Saban elevates for a layup against IT&E's Elmer Esdrelon.

Members of IT&E receive their runner-up trophy from BANMI secretary general Michael White. Also in the picture is BANMI president Elias Rangamar, standing left.

Budweiser caging champion the Bud Light CNMI Nationals pose with their trophies and officials of the organizing Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands.

Guillen grand slam helps Giants regain lead

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Sports

Manning Matchup II: Colts rout Giants, 38-14

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Mieko rules MTB race in Japan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

XTERRA World-bound Mieko Carey won another event in Japan when she topped the women's division of an MTB race there last Sunday.

Carey, who reigned in last month's XTERRA Japan, returned to the Land of the Rising Sun and was among the more than 400 participants in the 42-kilometer race. She completed the race in two hours and 32 minutes, making her the first female finisher and 16th overall despite her unfamiliarity with the course.

"It was funny because I have no idea how the race course looks like, but that made me feel relax before the start of the event," Carey said.

However, once at the starting line, the real pressure began for Carey.

She said it was a big challenge even lining up for the kick-off of the event and once the race began it took her precious time to leave the starting line.

"The race started at 7am and I went to the starting point at 6:15am and there was already a long line. I heard the first rider came to the starting point at 5am to get in the frontline. I woke up at 5am. Only five people can be at one line. It took me three minutes to pass the starting line after the race kicked off," the 32-year-old Saipan-based rider said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mieko Carey pedals in the rocky course during an MTB race in Japan last Sunday.

Besides the participants in the 42K race, the tournament also drew 80 riders for its 100K event and 70 for the 120K.

The struggles at the starting line continued for Carey, as the first 15K of the course was similar to Mt. Tapochao climb.

"It was just uphill and rocky. Along the course, I hit small and big rocks and it took me about an hour to complete that. I was dizzy and tired, trying to avoid the rocks," Carey said.

"But the course was beautiful. It was not that steep and you can see the mountains. One of

See MIEKO on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the defending varsity and junior varsity champions GCA Eagles pose for a group photo at their home court before playing in the COPSSA volleyball league early this month.

Eagles soar to sixth straight win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Grace Christian Academy kept its bid for a regular season sweep alive, following a straight set victory over Saipan International School A during their varsity division game in the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League

The Eagles topped the Geckos, 25-17, 25-17, last Thursday at the SIS court in As Lito to improve to a 6-0 record with four games left in the double round-robin regular season.

It took GCA less than an hour to finish off the home team and remain unbeaten in the six-squad field without even having to drop a single set since the league started early this month.

A sweep this season will give GCA the No. 1 seeding in the playoffs, which will start later next month, and will boost the Eagles' chances for an unprecedented seventh consecutive varsity championship.

The Becky Robles-coached GCA won last year's finals against Marianas Baptist Academy-A, 25-19, 25-15. The Eagles failed to sweep the regular season last year, holding a

See EAGLES on Page 26

SaiPal, Peleliu march to semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

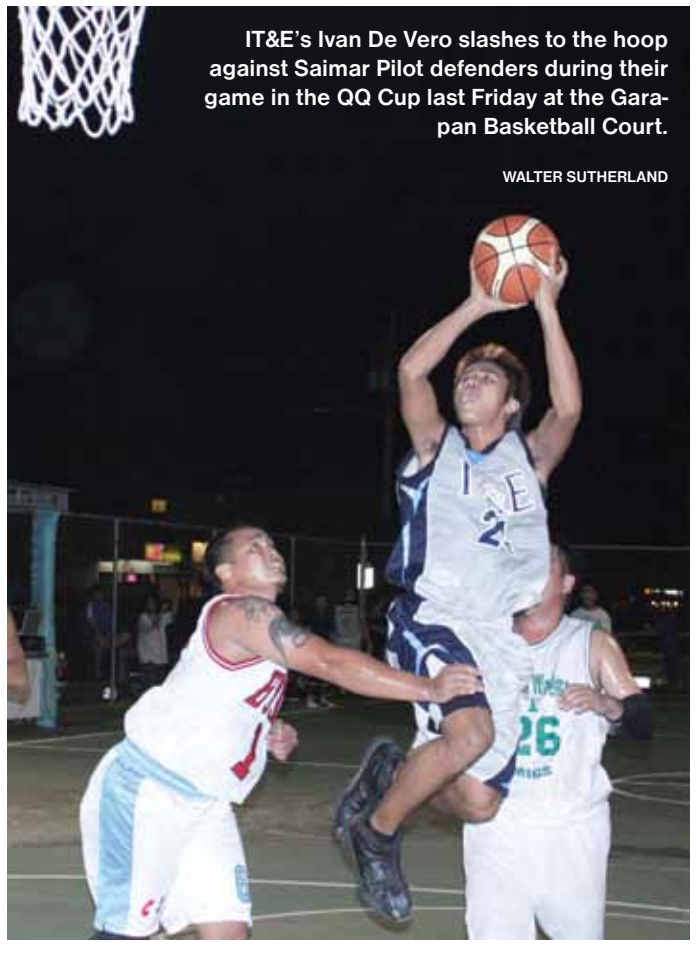
A SaiPal-Peleliu rematch looms in the 2010 Docomo Pacific/Palauan Community Association Slow-pitch Softball Tournament as they advanced to the semifinals of the fundraiser over the weekend at the Dandan Elementary School.

The defending champion SaiPal, which beat Peleliu in

See SAIPAL on Page 26

The Hitters' Popo Tudela waits for the pitch during their game against Ngatpang in the 2010 Docomo Pacific/Palauan Community Association Slow-pitch Softball Tournament last Saturday at the Dandan Elementary School.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



IT&E's Ivan De Vero slashes to the hoop against Saimar Pilot defenders during their game in the QQ Cup last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

IT&E, Docomo Pacific prevail in QQ Cup

BY WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Docomo Pacific and IT&E recorded contrasting wins in the 2010 QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

In the second game, Docomo Pacific pulled off a 119-109 double overtime win against Wing's Travel, while IT&E blew out Saimar Pilot, 82-55, in the courtain-raiser.

Docomo was behind most of the game, but hung in there to force two overtime periods and stole the win, the team's second in as many games.

Elmer Esdrelon led Doco-

See IT&E on Page 26